RESEARCH NOTE | International Journal of Plant Sciences, (July to December, 2009) Vol. 4 Issue 2 : 652-653

New record of *Triploceras gracile* Bailey (Desmidiaceae, Chlorophyta) from West Bengal, India

PRASANTA MALLICK AND JAI PRAKASH KESHRI

Accepted : April, 2009

Key words : New record, *Triploceras gracile*

Triploceras Bailey is a important genus of the family Desmidiaceae, The genus is easily recognized by its unique morphology. *Triploceras gracile* Bailey is the new record from West Bengal and also from Eastern India. This is the third report of the species from India after from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

Triploceras Bailey is the most beautiful genus that fascinates even an amateur under microscope. Unicellular desmid came into prominence in the eighteen century for its uniqueness and diversity. Initial studies on the Indian Desmids started in the middle of the nineteenth century by Wallich (1860), Hobson (1863), Lagerheim (1888) and Turner (1892). During the investigation on the Desmid biodiversity of Bankura district of West Bengal, the authors encountered the species of *Triploceras* Bailey, which is also found in rare reproductive form. Before this, the report was reported by Gurudeva *et al.* (1983) and Bharati (1965) from Karnataka and Ramanathan (1962) from Tamil Nadu.

The district Bankura covers an area 6882 sq. km, lies between $22^0 46'$ to $23^0 38'$ N latitude and between $86^0 36'$ to $87^0 46'$ E longitude. The district lies between the Chotonagpur plateau in the South and lower Gangetic delta in North. The district is fed by the rivers Damodar, Dwarakeswar and Kangshabati and their tributaries.

The algal samples were collected from different habitats of Bankura district. pH, temperature and ecological notes were recorded at the time of collection. The samples were preserved in 5% formalin. Camera lucida drawings were made both from live and preserved sample using GFW (Bando, 1988) as mounting solution.

Triploceras gracile Bailey:

Bailey, 1851, p.38, pl. 1, fig. 10 ; Prescott *et al.*, 1975, p.143, pl. LI, Figs. 7-14 ; Dillard 1990, p.140, pl. 49, Fig. 6. (Plate 1, Fig.1 and 2)

Correspondence to:
PRASANTA MALLICK, P.G. Department of Hooghly Moshin College, Chinsurah, HOOGHLY (W.B.) INDIA
Authors' affiliations:
JAI PRAKASH KESHRI, Phycology Laboratary, Department of Botany, University of Burdwan, BURDWAN (W.B.) INDIA

Cells elongated subcylindric, 12-18 times longer than broad, lateral margin undulate, semicells with mammillate protuberances, each bearing single stout spine, apex divided into two to four short processes, zygospore spherical with long radiating spine, cell wall thick.

Length 300-370 µm, width with spine 22-34 µm, without spine 13-19 µm, width at apex 26-32 µm; zygospore diameter with spine 69 µm, spine length 18 µm.

Samples examined: P.M.- 44, 190, 744, 1123:

The samples are light orange in color, attached on

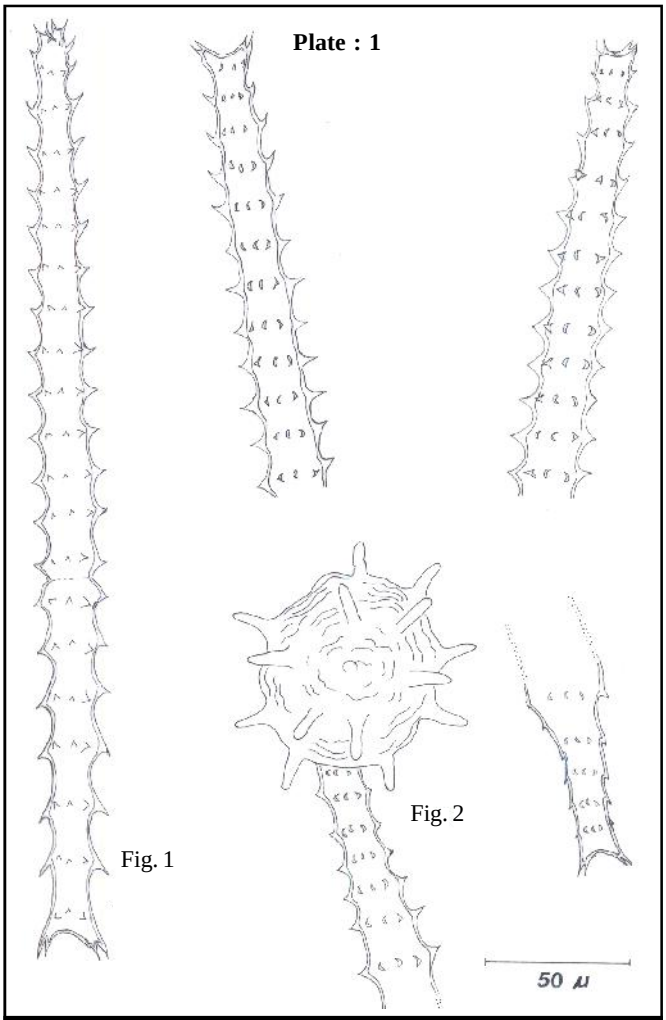

Fig. 1 : ***Triploceras gracile*** **(Vegetative plant body)**
Fig. 2 : ***Triploceras gracile*** **(Reproductive part)**