

First record of *Swarupella divina*, Wood 2006 (Bryozoa, Phylactolaemata) from India

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Abstract

This is the first report on the occurrence of *Swarupella divina* outside the Thailand and in India. The specimen is identified on the basis of floatoblast collected in planktonic samples from Visapur dam (19° 32' 93"N, and 74°52'95"E) and Mula dam (19° 32' 93"N and 74° 52' 95"E) from Ahmednagar district and Daunapur dam (18° 86'81"N and 76°42'35"E) from Beed district of Maharashtra State, India.

Bryozoa are small benthic aquatic invertebrates growing on submerged objects as colonies of genetically identical zooids produced by budding (Massard *et al.*, 2008). They grow on submerged substances like wood, rock, plastic, glass, rubber, macrophytes etc. Most species grow best in places where they can be protected from settling particles (Wood, 2005). Bryozoans are also represented in the plankton by their statoblasts (Asexual reproductive bodies) or by free swimming larvae (Welch, 2005). Statoblasts are used to distinguish phylactolaematae Bryozoans. Annandale (1906), reported first freshwater Bryozoa from India. His Studies of freshwater Bryozoa included the description of 2 new genera and 16 new species more than any other investigator before or since (Wood, 2010). Rao K.S (1992) and Shrivastava (1981) are the other important contributors on freshwater bryozoans of India.

Genus *Swarupella* is distinguished by small spines along the floatoblast suture especially at the pole. This genus was established by Shrivastava (1981). Till today this genus is represented by three species i.e. *Swarupella andamanensis* (Rao,1961) from Andaman Islands and Narsinghar, Madhya Pradesh, India, *Swarupella divina* (Wood, 2010),

Bung borophet, a large lake near Nakhon Sawan Province, Thailand and *Swarupella kasetsartensis* from Krabak Reservoir, Prachin Buri Province, Thailand (Wood, 2010) again from Thailand.

This is the first report on the occurrence of *Swarupella divina* outside the Thailand and in India. The specimen is identified on the basis of floatoblast collected in planktonic samples from Visapur dam (19° 32' 93"N, and 74°52'95"E) and Mula dam (19° 32' 93"N and 74° 52' 95"E) form Ahmednagar district and Daunapur dam (18° 86'81"N and 76°42'35"E) from Beed district of Maharashtra State, India.

The floatoblast is broadly oval with substantial annulus on both sides. The entire periphery is with snout projections, pointed at tip. The dorsal and ventral fenestrate shows small variation. The average length of floatoblast is 362 µm while average width is 230 µm. The ventral Fenestra is 210 µm in length and 161 µm in breadth. The description and the measurements are in the range specified by the Wood (2010) to conform the species but further studies are must to understand the colony morphology, Ecobiology and distribution of *Swarupella divina* in India.

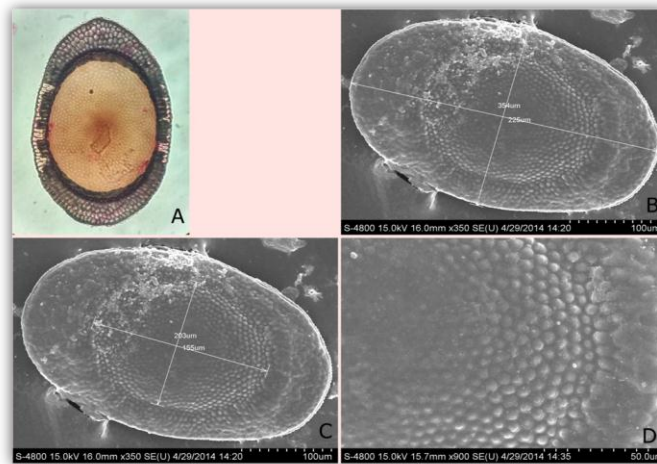


Figure 1. A. Statoblast of *Swarupella divina* B and C. Statoblast SEM showing measurements D. showing pattern on annulus.

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