

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF A COLONIAL ASCIDIAN, *LISSOCLINUM FRAGILE* (VAN NAME, 1902) FROM INDIA

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THE present note deals with the colonial ascidian, *Lissoclinum fragile*, as this form has not been reported so far from India¹⁻⁴. It is recorded for the first time at Tuticorin, Kanyakumari, Mandapam, Rameswaram, Krusadai Island and Shingle Island in the south east coast and at Vizhinjom Harbour area from the west coast of India.

The taxonomical position of *Lissoclinum fragile* is Class: Ascidiacea. Order: Enterogona. Suborder: Aplousobranchiata. Family: Didemnidae. Genus: *Lissoclinum*. Species: *fragile*.

The important generic characters are: spicules in test-4 rows of branchial stigmata—atrial opening with languet but no siphon—testis partially or completely divided into two or more follicles—sperm duct not coiled.

The morphological characters of the species as observed are briefly given below.

The colony is soft, thin, encrusting with extensive cloacal cavity. The colony is in varying shades of white colour. The thorax is almost free, and the abdomen is included in pillars in the tunic. Larvae are located in the basal lamina. The branchial sac shows a brown pigment, light or dark. The bodywall is almost missing, visible at the level of a short atrial languet and posteriorly where it holds thoracic lateral organs at the basis of the fourth stigmata row. There is no fixative appendage. The testis has a straight sperm duct, and ovary is present above the testis. The tadpole has 3 suckers and 4 small papillae.

Diplosomoides is the synonym of this genus. This species is known from many tropical shallow waters of the world but in India its occurrence has been recorded now.

Lissoclinum fragile is seen attached to the underside of the stones and also to the weeds, wood, etc.

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FIRST RECORD OF *COCCOPHAGUS SILVESTRII* COMPERE (APHELINIDAE: HYMENOPTERA) FROM INDIA PARASITISING ON A NEW HOST, THE SOFT BROWN SCALE, *COCCUS HESPERIDUM*

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RECENT collection of hymenopteran parasitoids by the authors around Gorakhpur has yielded two aphelinid parasitoids of the soft brown scale, *Coccus hesperidum* Linn. (Coccidae: Homoptera). The widespread distribution of *C. hesperidum* on different taxonomic groups of the plants and its economic importance have recently been cited¹. Locally, the stem of an ornamental creeper, *Tecoma grandiflora* Del. (Bignoniaceae), was found heavily infested by this scale in the years 1980 and 1981 in January.

The two parasitoids were identified as *Aneristus ceroplastae* Howard and *Coccophagus silvestrii* Compere (Aphelinidae: Hymenoptera). *A. ceroplastae* was recently recorded from south India¹ while *C. silvestrii* is only known from China^{2,3} and this forms its first record from India. In China, it parasitises the coccid, *Lecanium* sp.², hence, *C. hesperidum* is a new host recorded for the first time.

The extent of parasitisation caused by both the parasitoids approximates 60%. *A. ceroplastae*, itself, was able to parasitise *C. hesperidum* at 52% in south India¹.

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