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MARINE ALGAL FLORA FROM SELECTED CENTRES ALONG THE MADRAS COAST†

A survey was made on the marine algae occurring at Pulicat, Kovalam, Muthukadu and Mahabalipuram along the Madras coast. The species recorded at the respective centres are given in Table 1. A total of 22 species were collected of which six species belonged to Chlorophyta, three to Phaeophyta, 10 to Rhodophyta and three to Cyanophyta. Out of the 22 species, 16 are recorded for the first time along the Madras coast.

The agar-yielding seaweeds *Gracilaria corticata* var. *corticata* and *G. verrucosa*, carrageenan yielding

seaweeds *Hypnea valentiae* and *H. spinella*, algin yielding seaweeds *Padina tetrastromatica*, *Rosenvingea intricata* and *Chnoospora implexa* and edible seaweeds *Enteromorpha compressa*, *Ulva lactuca* and *Centroceras clavulatum* were present among the species collected. Detailed investigations throughout the year on algal composition at different localities along Madras coast are necessary to know the availability and seasonal variations of the different algae.

Table 1. List of marine algae collected from four localities near Madras

Sl. No.	Name of the algae	Pulicat lake	Kovalam	Muttukadu	Mahabalipuram
CHLOROPHYTA					
1.	<i>Enteromorpha compressa</i> (Linnaeus) Greville	+	—	+	+
2.	* <i>E. intestinalis</i> (Linnaeus) Link	+	—	+	—
3.	* <i>Ulva lactuca</i> Linnaeus	—	—	+	—
4.	* <i>Chaetomorpha antennina</i> (Bory) Kuetzing	—	+	—	+
5.	<i>Chaetomorpha</i> sp.	+	—	+	+
6.	<i>Cladophora</i> sp.	—	—	+	+
PHAEOPHYTA					
7.	<i>Padina tetrastromatica</i> Hauck	+	—	—	—
8.	<i>Rosenvingea intricata</i> (J. Agardh) Boergesen	+	—	+	—
9.	* <i>Chnoospora implexa</i> (Hering) J. Agardh	+	—	—	—
RHODOPHYTA					
10.	* <i>Grateloupia filicina</i> (Wulfen) J. Agardh	—	—	—	+
11.	* <i>G. lithophila</i> Boergesen	—	+	—	+
12.	* <i>Gracilaria corticata</i> var. <i>corticata</i> J. Agardh	—	+	—	+
13.	* <i>G. verrucosa</i> (Hudson) Papenfuss	+	—	+	—
14.	* <i>Hypnea valentiae</i> (Turner) Montagne	+	—	—	—
15.	* <i>H. spinella</i> (C. Agardh) Kuetzing	—	—	—	+
16.	<i>Ceramium</i> sp.	—	—	—	+
17.	* <i>Centroceras clavulatum</i> (C. Agardh) Montagne	—	—	—	+
18.	* <i>Polysiphonia</i> sp.	+	—	—	—
19.	* <i>Herposiphonia</i> sp.	—	—	+	—
CYANOPHYTA					
20.	* <i>Lyngbya</i> sp.	+	—	—	—
21.	* <i>Oscillatoria</i> sp.	—	—	+	—
22.	* <i>Phormidium</i> sp.	+	—	+	—

*Recorded for the first time; + Present; — Absent

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