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### Short Communication

## FIRST RECORD OF *LESQUEREUSIA* SCHLUMBERGER (RHIZOPODA : PROTOZOA) FROM GROUND MOSS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Lesquereusia* Schlumberger belonging to the order Arcellinida was erected by Schlumberger in 1845 with *L. spiralis* as type species. To date there are 16 species reported globally. Of these, three species are hitherto known from India. Vanamala Naidu (1966) reported *Lesquereusia minor* Walton from a freshwater body of Andhra Pradesh and Nair *et al.* (1971) and Das *et al.* (1993) reported *L. modesta* Rhumbler and *L. spiralis* (Ehrenberg) from the freshwater habitats of West Bengal. The habitat of the genus is freshwater and the present communication deals with the first report of *L. modesta* and *L. spiralis* from ground moss.

*L. modesta* is characterised by opaque and hemispherical test and encrusted with quartz crystals. *L. spiralis* is characterized by transparent and semispherical test composed of closely arranged vermiform pellets, neck below the constriction with a slight elevation from which outline continued in a straight line down to mouth. Mouth is circular, contracted in its margin plain and sharply defined. In India, there are records of *L. spiralis* from Manipur (Das *et al.*, 2004), Meghalaya (Das *et al.*, 1995) and West Bengal (Das *et al.*, 1993). *L. spiralis* differs from *L. modesta* mainly in shape of the siliceous rods and

the amount of mineral particles used and in the orientation of the neck. Specimens of both the species are deposited in the National Zoological Collections of the protozoology section, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

The moss samples for the present study were collected by the scientists of High Altitude Regional Centre, Solan on 16. 05. 2008 from Khelvi village, Pangi Valley (32° 53' 07. 6" N and 076° 27' 55.8" E and altitude of 2459 metre above MSL) which is on the bank of river Chanderbhaga of Himachal Pradesh. Although all the 16 species are so far reported from aquatic habitat the present record of the above mentioned two species of *Lesquereusia* from ground moss may be due to the confinement of these species in the ground moss, which is the interphase between aquatic and terrestrial habitat, during flood.

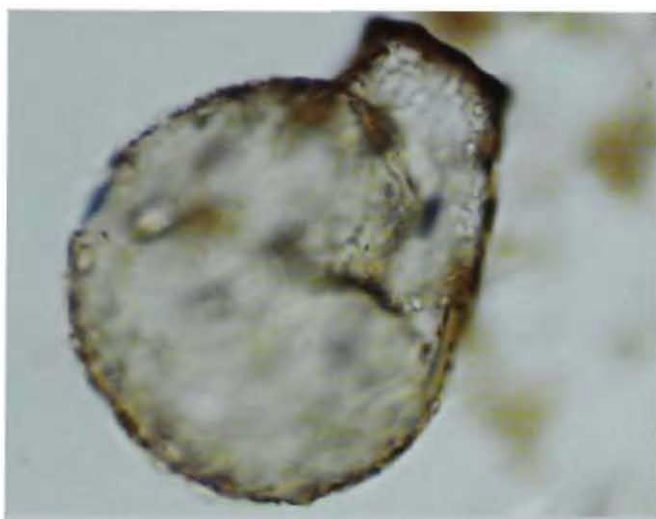


Fig.-1. *Lesquereusia modesta*-P 1011282.



Fig.-2. *Lesquereusia spiralis*-P 1011304.

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