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Short Communication

FIRST RECORD OF *LUMBRINEREIS PSEUDOBIFILARIS* FAUVEL (ANNELIDA : POLYCHAETA) FROM WEST BENGAL, INDIA

INTRODUCTION

Polychaetes or bristle worms are recognized as a very important and significant group among the marine organisms. Though, basically these animals are the inhabitants of the marine environments, they are also common in the estuarine and brackish-water environments and some live in freshwater zone also. During the recent study (2004-06) of benthic fauna of the East Calcutta Wetland area authors came across a few specimens of *Lumbrinereis pseudobifilaris* Fauvel, 1932 from a sewage fed nursery pond named Nalban Bhery. Misra (1984, 1998) studied the polychaetes of West Bengal, which comprise 72 species belonging to 50 genera and 27 families. Mitra *et al.* (1997) reported 27 species of polychaetes from the Digha coast, but there was no mention of the *L. pseudobifilaris*, so it is the first record of this species from this state. Brief descriptions of the species are given here with a note of its habitat.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The collection spot (Latitude 22° 33.529' N, Longitude 88°25.083' E) is a sewage fed fish culture pond situated in the eastern fringe of Calcutta. This area is actually called as Saltlake swamps consisting of many bheries, like Nalban bheri, Sukantanagar, Goltala etc. These wetlands are fed by the sewage of Calcutta city through a channels and lock gates. The wetland area is reputed as Ramsar site.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Live specimens of polychaetes were collected from the silty bottom of the pond. Soft substratum was generally dug out by a box type sampler (15 cm × 15 cm × 10 cm) and was washed through a 5 mm mesh size sieve. After hand sorting, all the samples were

preserved in 10% formalin after necessary narcotization. Preserved samples are sorted out very carefully using a low power stereomicroscope.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Phylum ANNELIDA

Class POLYCHAETA

Family LUMBRINEREIDAE

Lumbrinereis pseudobifilaris Fauvel, 1932

1932. *Lumbrinereis pseudobifilaris* Fauvel, p. 154, text. fig. 22, pl. vi, figs. 7-13.

1998. *Lumbrinereis pseudobifilaris*, Srikrishnadhesh, B. Murugusen, P. and Ajmal Khan, S. pp. 110.

Material examined : 2 ex; Loc : India, West Bengal, Nalban Bhery (sewage fed fish culture pond) Dist. South 24 Parganas; Coll. M. Roy. Regd. No. An 3628/1; 03.ix.2005; 3 exs, Loc : India, West Bengal, Nalban Bhery (sewage fed fish culture pond); Coll. M. Roy. Regd. No. An 3627/1; 03.ix.2006.

Diagnosis : Size : 42-56 mm in length and 2-3 mm in width; body cylindrical, deeply annulated. Prostomium conical, rather sharp, eyeless. The first two achaetous segments each about the same size as the following. On the ventral side of the prostomium three longitudinal grooves reaching across the next segment. Capillary setae present, hooks absent, ligules of the feet long.

Distribution : India : West Bengal (Nalban Bhery); Tamilnadu (Vellar estuary); Cochin backwaters (Kerala).

Elsewhere : Indo-west Pacific.

SUMMARY

Lumbrinereis pseudobifilaris Fauvel, 1932 is recorded for the first time from West Bengal. Previously this species was recorded from the marine and estuarine

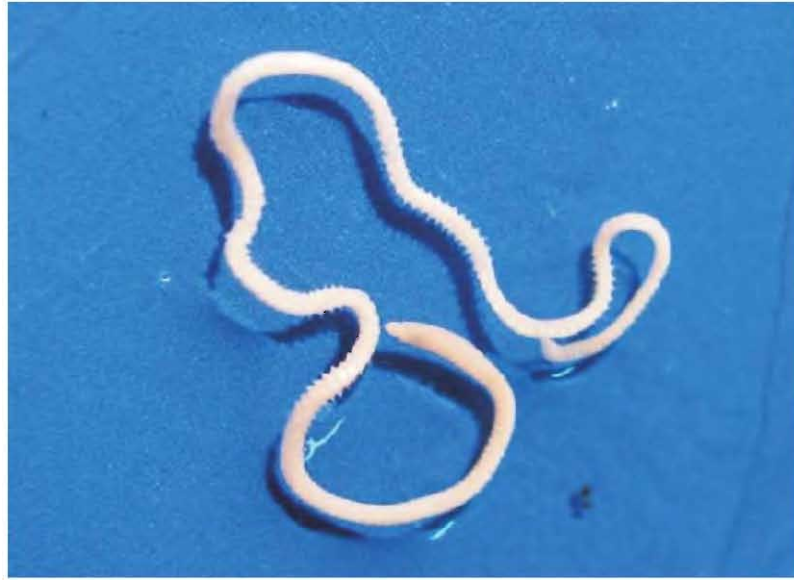


Fig. 1 : *Lumbrinereis pseudobifilaris* Fauvel, 1932.

habitats Indian waters. Here it is found from a fresh water pond, which also indicates the variable habitat choice of the species.

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