

## REVIEW

**K. S. Srinivasan, Phycologia Indica — Icones of Indian Marine Algae.** Vol. 1. XVIII + 52 pp. and 51 plates. Published by the Director, Botanical Survey of India. Calcutta 1969. Bound. Rs. 31 or 60 sh. or \$ 7.00.

In the introduction to his work the author explains the need for *Icones of Indian Algae*. He mentions several old publications with excellent illustrations in colour of marine algae from other coasts, which have added considerably to the knowledge and wider appreciation of the organisms. '*Phycologia Indica*', unfortunately, is inferior to most of these older works. This is not because the coloured plates are of inferior quality. Some of them are even perfect, like those of *Sebdenia polydactyla* (pl. 14), *Halymenia porphyroides* (pl. 17), *Grateloupia indica* (pl. 19) and *Dictyopteria australis* (pl. 34).

I am critical on the following:

In addition to these plates the author has copied 'original and authentic illustrations of diagnostic value and anatomical interest' for his work. I have looked for the original illustrations in literature and have found nearly all of them. This was not so easy, for Mr Srinivasan gives no references to any literature. Comparing these illustrations with the original ones I detected many errors. Nearly all the dimensions as given in the figures are wrong. In some cases they are even ridiculous, as in the case of *Liagora erecta* (pl. 16) where, according to the given dimensions, cells of more than 10 metres long are found! When comparing the drawings of cells of *Gastroclonium iyengarii* (pl. 1) with those in the original figure (by Mr Srinivasan himself) the cells seem to have grown to twice their original size.

Comparing '*Phycologia Indica*' with Boergesen's publications on Indian algae, I found that the descriptions in the former showed a strong resemblance to those in the latter, in some cases even no new localities are given. Mr Srinivasan has also followed Boergesen in his nomenclature, even where Boergesen was wrong (e. g. *Dictyopteria*). In some other cases the spelling of names of plants or authors is incorrect.

I wonder why Mr Srinivasan mentions the Atlantic species *Scinaia furcellata* and *Rhodymenia palmata*. I could not find any literature about the discovery of these plants in the Indian regions, nor did I find anything about *Caulerpa serrulata* (a Red Sea species) in Indian publications. Regarding the nomenclature of *Codium elongatum* Mr Srinivasan is inconsistent. Boergesen corrected his description of this in 1946 and described two new species based on the material originally called *C. elongatum*. Mr Srinivasan mentions these species in his '*Algarum species ex India oriundae*' (Bull. Bot. Survey India 7: 188—266, 1965), but nevertheless uses the old name in his '*Phycologia Indica*'.

Most of the coloured plates are of good quality, and have perhaps been made from living material. But in some cases the colours mentioned in the text do not agree with those of the plate, e.g. the figures of *Scinaia hatei* (pl. 10), *Liagora erecta* (pl. 16), *Grateloupia lithophila* (pl. 20), and *Caulerpa serrulata* (pl. 47). In these cases the colours are perhaps those of dried material.

I hope that a second volume in this series will come out, and that Mr Srinivasan will include in it a complete list of references as well as corrections to the first volume. This may make '*Phycologia Indica*' comparable with foreign literature and useful to the research workers and others.

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