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COLACIUM VESICULOSUM EHR. : A NEW RECORD FOR BANGLADESH

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Abstract

A colonial euglenoid alga *Colacium vesiculosum* Ehrenberg is reported for the first time in Bangladesh. The species has been taxonomically described with photomicrographs. It was collected from Mathbaria of Pirojpur district.

Euglenoid algae are represented globally by 45 genera (Dillard 2000) of which, 8 (*Euglena, Euglenamorpha, Phacus, Trachelomonas, Lepocinclis*, *Strombomonas*, *Petalomonas* and *Astasia*) have been reported from Bangladesh (Islam and Khatun 1966, Islam and Aziz 1979, Islam and Moniruzzaman 1981, Islam *et al*. 1991, Islam and Alfasane 2003, Islam and Irfanullah 2003, 2005; Khondker and Alfasane 2005). The genus *Colacium* is not so common as compared to others and is represented by 12 species, two formae and two uncertain species (Huber-Pestalozi 1955). The vegetative cells of *Colacium* are known to occur as non-motile form. Reproductive cells are motile *Euglena* like, swim and get hold to the substratum, lose their flagellum and become attached by a mucilaginous stalk. It may form amorphous aggregates of cells or dendroid colonies on a variety of aquatic organisms or detritus particles (Dillard 2000).

The present authors, while working on some plankton samples collected from a domestic pond came across the occurrence of *Colacium vesiculosum* Ehr., hetherto unreported for Bangladesh. Details of the study site and sampling procedure have been presented in Khondker *et al*. (2006).

Division: Euglenophyta, Class: Euglenophyceae, Order: Colaciales, Family: Colaciaceae

Colacium vesiculosum Ehrenberg **(Figs. 1-4)**

(Huber-Pestalozzi 1955, 127, 24: 112h; Dillard 2000, 58, 9: 1; Prescott, 1982, 420, 89: 18,19)

Cells dark to bright green in colour and grouped together into a nearly amorphous colony. Cells broadly cylindrical, ellipsoid to somewhat pyriform and attached to a substratum with short and branched mucilaginous stalk. Chloroplasts many, ovoid to discoid, with pyrenoids. Cells 10.2 - 22.9 µm long and 5.1-10.2 µm broad.

Samples collected on 30 August, 2004 from Station No. 4, Mathbaria, Pirojpur.

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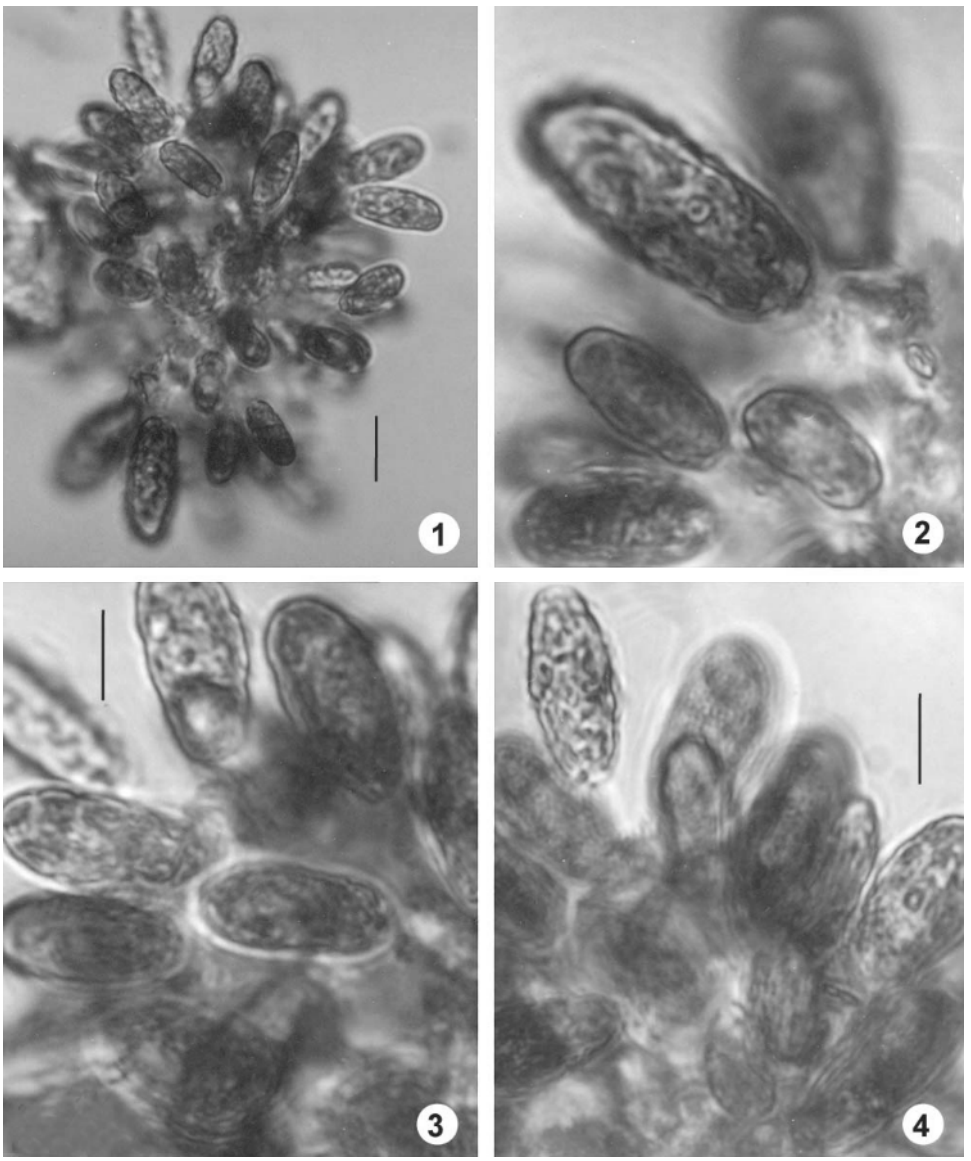

Figs. 1-4. *Colacium vesiculosum* Ehr. 1. A view of the colony. 2-4. Magnified views of different portion of the colony. Bars = 10 µm.

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