

First Record of *Acetabularia myriospora* (Polyphysaceae, Chlorophyta) in the Ceará State, Brazil

Abstract

On rocky shores, macroalgae play an ecological role as organizer of community structures, since they are source of food for many invertebrate species inhabiting their fronds, as well as providing shelter from predators, enhancing environment conditions and reducing water movement. With this in mind, detecting new species on a regional scale is of major importance for biodiversity monitoring and conservation. In the current study, a first record of the seaweed species *Acetabularia myriospora* was made in the offshore of Ceará state, Brazil. The frequency of occurrence of *A. myriospora* (1.62%) is considered low whether compared to that of *A. calyculus* (17.43%). This study is the first record of the species *Acetabularia myriospora* (Polyphysaceae, Chlorophyta) in the coastline of Ceará state.

Keywords: Macroalgae, Biodiversity, Coastline, Seaweed

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Introduction

In the last century, an alarming rise in the dissemination of exotic species among oceans worldwide, boosted by expansion of maritime commerce and fish farming.¹ Studies on changes in standard species and habitat diversity are important to the understanding of natural species assemblage structures.²

Hard surfaces as intertidal areas or continuously submerged rocks are ideal habitats for releasing of several organisms, such as algae.³ On rocky shores, macroalgae play an ecological role as organizer of community structures, since they are source of food for many invertebrate species inhabiting their fronds, as well as providing shelter from predators, enhancing environment conditions and reducing water movement.^{4,5}

With this in mind, detecting new species on a regional scale is of major importance for biodiversity monitoring and conservation. In the current study, the first record of the seaweed species *Acetabularia myriospora* was made in the offshore of Ceará state, northeast Brazil.

Materials and methods

The study was performed in the algae bank of Barrinha, located on the coastline of Icapuí city, in the state of Ceará, Brazil. A floristic survey was made in two manual random samplings during spring low-tide days. Species were found on rocks, sandstone reefs or even in tide pools. The material was collected and packaged into plastic bags, properly labeled, fixed in a solution as described by Reis TNDV, et al.⁶ formulated from formaldehyde in seawater at 4% and then taken to the laboratory, where zoobenthos were separated.

Identification was carried out following traditional techniques for seaweeds.⁷ Morphological and anatomical details were observed under stereoscopic microscope. Specimen frequency of occurrence was based on the number of samples, being estimated by the formula below:

$$F_o = \frac{T_o \times 100}{T_a}$$

In which, F_o is the frequency of occurrence, T_o is the number of samples in which the taxon was found, and T_a is the total number of samples. Taxa classification as well as species and genus identifications were determined based on specific bibliography about flora and reviews of taxonomic groups.⁸

Results and discussion

The genus *Acetabularia* is divided into two subgenera: *Acetabularia* and *Acicularia*.⁹ In Brazil, four species belonging to *Acicularia* were identified: *Acetabularia schenckii* Möbius, 1889; *Acetabularia calyculus* J.V.Lamourin Quoy & Gaimard, 1824; *Acetabularia crenulata* J.V.Lamour, 1816 and *Acetabularia myriospora* Joly & Cord.-Mar. in Joly et al. 1965.¹⁰ Besides, two species belonging to *Acicularia* (Table 1) were observed in the study area.

Table 1 Taxonomic synopsis of the two seaweed species identified in Icapuí coastline, Ceará state, Brazil

Taxon
Chlorophyta
Dasycladales
Polyphysaceae
<i>Acetabularia calyculus</i> *
<i>Acetabularia myriospora</i> **

*First occurrence in Icapuí coastline

**First occurrence in Ceará state coastline

The species *A. Calyculus* had already been recorded for the phycological flora of this state,¹¹ however, it is the first register in Icapuí algae bank. In Brazil, *A. Myriospora* was firstly catalogued in the state of Bahia, after that, other records were made around the country.¹² However, this species has not hitherto been identified in Ceará state coastline.

The frequency of occurrence of *A. Myriospora* (1.62%) is considered low whether compared to that of *A. calyculus* (17.43%) (Figure 1); this might be because *A. myriospora* is rarely sampled, mainly for being a small species inhabiting rocky shores and being associated to larger species.

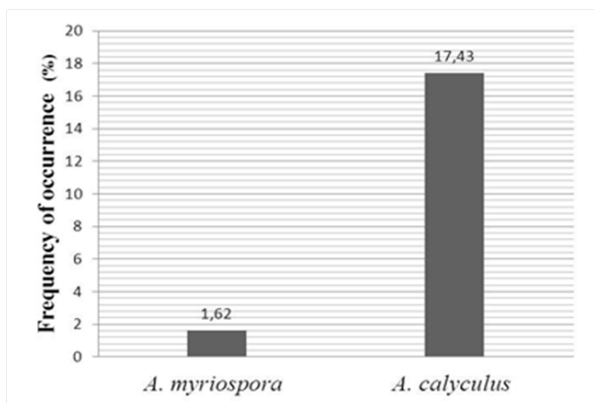


Figure 1 Frequency of occurrence of the two species of seaweeds (genus *Acetabularia* and subgenus *Acicularia*) sampled in the coastline of Icapuí, Ceará state, Brazil.

Hence, the importance of this study relies on the fact that little is known about the marine flora of the state, warning against the need for further studies to detect upcoming species. Indeed, two new species of algae were surveyed for the region of Icapuí; in addition, it has been the first record of the species *Acetabularia myriospora* (Polyphysaceae, Chlorophyta) in the coastline of Ceará state.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interests.

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