

Article

# *Glycera sheikhmujibi* n. sp. (Annelida: Polychaeta: Glyceridae): A New Species of Glyceridae from the Saltmarsh of Bangladesh

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<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:C2CEE260-5B4E-43B7-9251-2A0AB37EAB59>

Received: 8 May 2020; Accepted: 24 May 2020; Published: 26 May 2020

**Abstract:** A new species of glycerid polychaete, *Glycera sheikhmujibi*, is described from the saltmarsh on the central coast of Bangladesh. The species is identified based on morphological characteristics using both a light microscope and scanning electron microscope (SEM). The species is characterized by the presence of three distinct types of proboscideal papillae: type 1 papillae (conical with three transverse ridges), type 2 (conical with a straight, median, longitudinal ridge), and type 3 (round, shorter, and broader, with a straight, median, longitudinal ridge). It has a Y-shaped aileron with gently incised triangular base, almost equal-size digitiform noto- and neuropodial lobes in the mid-body, and long ventral cirri at the posterior end. The new species is compared with its related species, previously described from the Bay of Bengal region. A key to all these species is provided.

**Keywords:** polychaete; *Glyceridae*; saltmarsh; new species; Bangladesh

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## 1. Introduction

The family Glyceridae currently has 87 accepted species (80 species of *Glycera*, one species of *Glycerella*, and five species of *Hemipodus*) (World Register of Marine Species, WoRMS; [www.marinespecies.org](http://www.marinespecies.org)). Among the three genera, *Glycera* and *Glycerella* possess biramous parapodia, whereas *Hemipodus* includes species with only uniramous parapodia throughout the body [1]. The ailerons, accessory supports on the proboscis, are rod-like in *Glycerella*, and mostly triangular-shaped or a more complicated structure having outer and inner rami in *Glycera*. Both *Glycera* and *Hemipodus* have spinigerous compound chaetae, but in *Glycerella*, additional compound falcigers are present [1]. Böggemann [2] revised all species of *Glycera* previously described worldwide and synonymised many of the previously described species (166), accepting only 36 as valid species. This was based on morphological data only, but subsequently he has used molecular studies to support some of these widely distributed species [3,4]. They are easily distinguishable from other polychaetes, as they have a pointed prostomium and eversible axial proboscis with numerous papillae. *Glycera* are widely distributed from tropical to temperate regions, and from intertidal to abyssal depths, inhabiting mainly soft bottom (sand/mud) sediments [1,3,5,6]. Glycerids are generally considered to be carnivorous burrowers, capturing and killing prey with their strong, well-developed jaws connected to venom glands that supply venom [7,8].

Polychaetes have been poorly studied in Bangladesh. While some benthic ecological studies have been carried out in the area [9–11], these studies have provided no taxonomic details, apart from the listing of polychaete species and their abundance data. None of these studies have deposited any material, so the validity of these species cannot be confirmed. Pramanik et al. [12] reported a new record of Glyceridae, *Glycera lancadivae* Schmarda, 1861 [13], which seems to be similar to *Glycera brevicirris* Grube, 1870 [14] (known from Sri Lanka and the Andaman Sea).

Of the 80 accepted species of *Glycera* Lamarck, 1818 [15], only 10 species have been recorded from the Bay of Bengal region (WoRMS; [www.marinespecies.org](http://www.marinespecies.org)). This region includes Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and the tip of Andaman Nicobar Islands. Only one of these 10 species has been recorded from Bangladesh [12], in the northeastern corner of the Bay of Bengal: *G. lancadivae* Schmarda, 1861 [13]. Muir and Hossain [16] reported an unidentifiable glycerid fragment from the Halishahar Coast of Bangladesh, and they also provided taxonomic keys for identifying 14 species from the Bay of Bengal and Indo-Pacific regions. Subsequently, Hossain and Hutchings [17] emphasized the possibility of undescribed polychaete taxa from Bangladeshi coastal waters. Hence, the aim of this report is to describe a new species of *Glycera* from the Bangladesh Coast, and to provide an updated key to all species of *Glycera* recorded from the Bay of Bengal region.

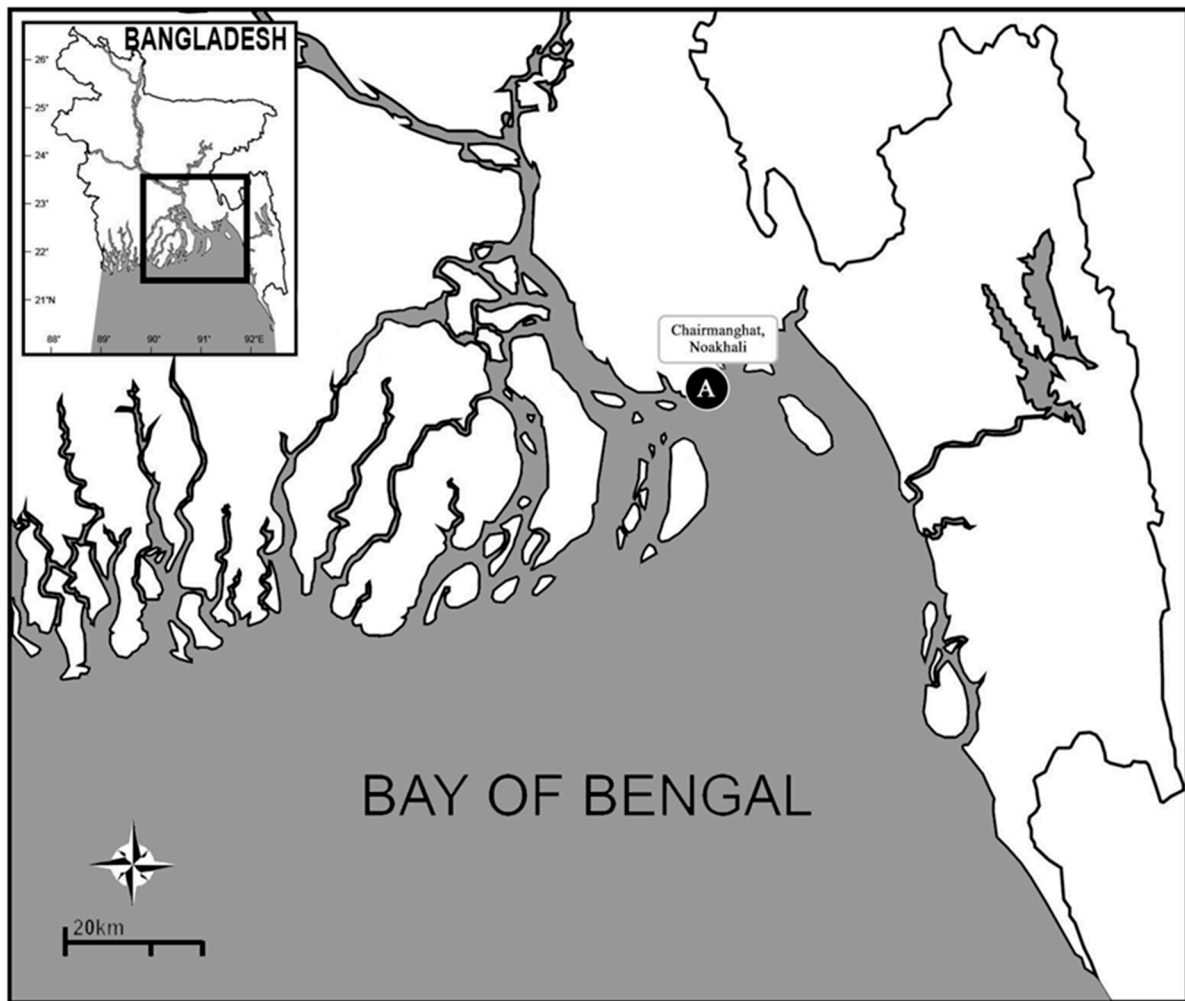
## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Study Site Description

The study area is located in an upper tidal channel of the lower Meghna river estuary, the largest estuarine ecosystem of Bangladesh, characterized by sunny tropical weather with monsoonal influence [18,19]. Mean annual temperature and rainfall in the study area are 25.5 °C and 2980 mm, respectively. According to the Köppen–Geiger climate classification, this climate is considered to be Am (tropical monsoon climate). The monsoon is characterized by strong southeastern winds with high rainfall, humidity, cloud cover, thunderstorms, cyclones, and occasional storm surges [18,19]. Almost all year round, the area is influenced by the incoming tide from Bay of Bengal. Tides are of a semi-diurnal type, with two high and two low waters during a lunar day. The tide varies with respect to magnitude, ranging from 0.07 m during neap tide to 4.42 m during spring tide [20]. The wave height of the estuary varies from 0 to 4 m [21]. However, the tidal wave is considerably slanted as it moves inside the channel, so that with increasing distance from the channel opening, the duration of flood becomes shorter than during the ebb tide. The lower, deeper areas near the opening of the channel are characterized by strong estuarine influence, with higher current velocity and stronger tides, while the estuarine water inflow is substantially reduced in the upper shallow areas. In addition, the upper part of the channel receives a continuous freshwater supply, especially during monsoons, through a small system of tidal creeks and streams.

### 2.2. Sample Collection and Analysis

Sediment samples were collected during April 2015 from Chairman Ghat (22°30'48.3876" N, 91°5'6.6078" E, Noakhali, Chittagong division), using a hand-held corer with a depth penetration of 10 cm (Figure 1). The collected samples were washed through a 0.5 mm mesh hand sieve, and polychaetes retained on the sieve were placed into plastic vials and fixed with 5% formalin in the field. After 2 days, the samples were washed with freshwater and transferred to 70% ethyl alcohol for further examination [17].



**Figure 1.** Map showing the collection area (A). Source: [17].

Material was examined using stereo (Motic 6.5x–50X Zoom Stereo) and compound (Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) microscopes. Scanning electron microscope (SEM) observations were made with a Zeiss EVO LS15 SEM with a Robinson Backscatter Detector after critical-point drying and coating with 20 nm gold at the Australian Museum [17]. Specimens were photographed using a light microscope (Leica MZ16, Leica Microsystems, Wetzlar, Germany) and Spot flex 15.2 (Leica Microsystems, Wetzlar, Germany) with a camera attached. In some cases, the material was stained with methylene blue to increase the resolution of diagnostic characters. All material examined was deposited at the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM).

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Systematics

The family of the studied species is Glyceridae Grube, 1850 [22]. The genus is *Glyceria* Lamarck, 1818 [15], and the species is *Glyceria sheikhmujibi* n. sp. (<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:C2CEE260-5B4E-43B7-9251-2A0AB37EAB59>).

#### 3.2. Material Examined

The holotype was AM W.48048, Bangladesh, Chairman Ghat, Noakhali, 22°30′48.3876″ N, 91°5′6.6078″ E; mid-intertidal zone of the saltmarsh, a tributary of Meghna Estuary; collected by Hossain, M.B, 3 April 2015. The paratypes were AM W.48049, and AM W.49884 (MI1726 and MI1727), as well as AMW.49885 (MI1728 and MI1729) mounted for SEM.

### 3.3. Generic Identification

This species has been placed into the genus *Glycera* based on its overall morphological similarities with other species of *Glycera*, including the presence of different types of dense papillae on their proboscis. The genus *Glycera* Lamarck, 1818 [15] can easily be identified from other genera by the following unique characters [2,15]: acutely pointed, usually ringed prostomium with four terminal tentacles; and a long, eversible, club-like proboscis, provided with four hooked horny jaws and accessory lateral ailerons. The ailerons possess a more complicated structure with outer and inner rami, and sometimes an interramal plate. Parapodia have two anterior lobes with cirri and one or two posterior lobes, as well as the ventral chaetae compound and dorsal capillary chaetae.

### 3.4. Diagnosis

The salient features of the new species are (i) the presence of three types of proboscideal papillae—type 1 papillae (main type), which are conical with three transverse ridges; type 2 papillae, which are conical with straight, median, longitudinal ridges; and type 3 papillae, which are round, shorter, and broader, with straight, median, longitudinal ridges; (ii) Y-shaped ailerons with gently incised triangular bases; and (iii) digitiform noto- and neuropodial lobes of almost equal size in the mid-body and long ventral cirri at the posterior end.

### 3.5. Description

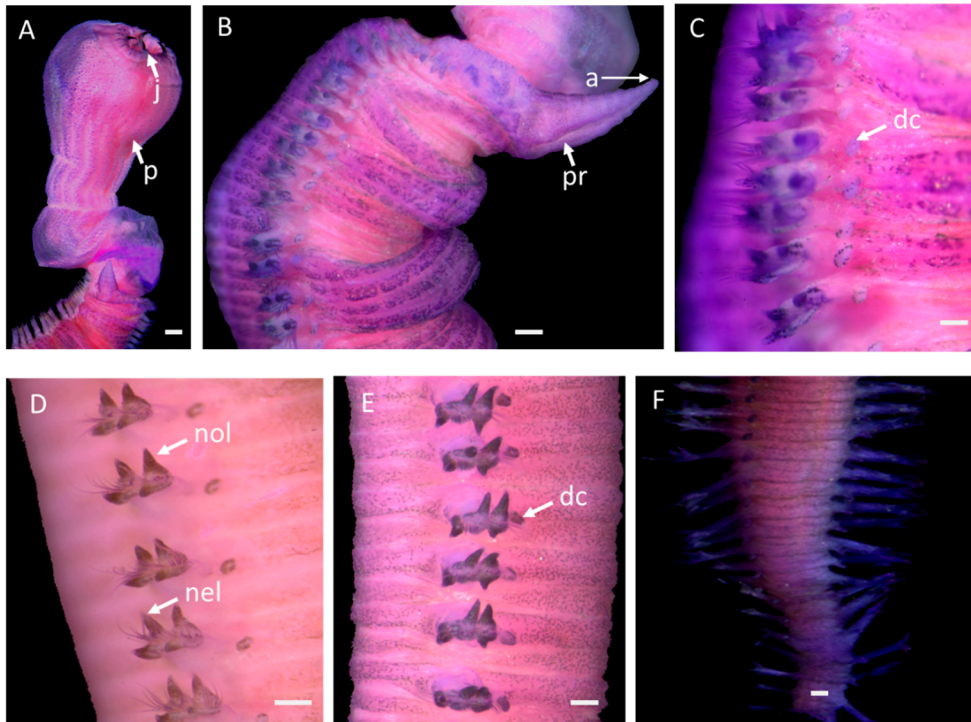
#### 3.5.1. Holotype

The holotype has an incomplete, cylindrical body, which is elongated and tapered at both ends (Figure 2A,B). The body reaches up to 42 mm long, with up to 158 segments, and has a width of 2.2 mm in the middle part of the body; preserved specimens in alcohol are whitish with numerous scattered small black pigmented spots (Figure 2C,D). The body segment is biannulate (Figure 2E), and the anterior annulus slightly shorter than posterior annulus.

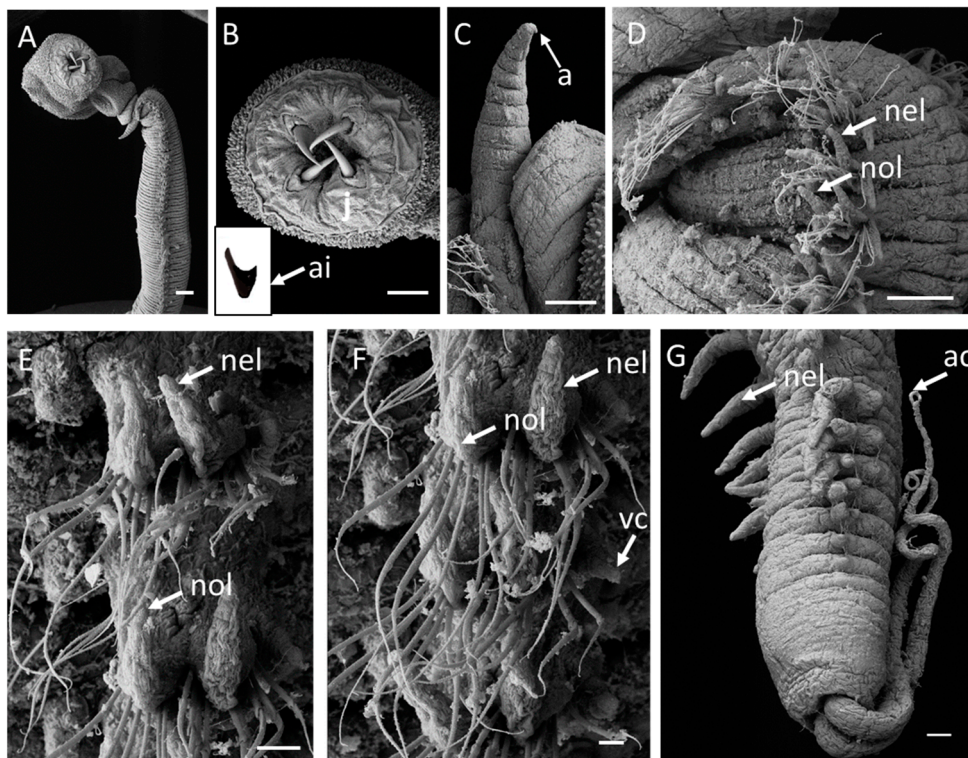
The prostomium is conical, pointed, and distinctly separated into about ten rings; the terminal ring has four antennae, and no nuchal organs or eyes (Figures 2A,B and 3A,C).

The parapodia of the first two segments are uniramous, with a prechaetal and a postchaetal lobe, while the subsequent parapodia are biramous (Figures 2B and 3D). There are two unequal, triangular to digitiform, prechaetal and postchaetal anterior lobes, and lobes of similar length in mid-body (Figures 2C, 3D, and 4A,D). Knob-like dorsal cirri from the second parapodium are inserted most clearly at the base of the anterior parapodia, as well as on the body wall far above parapodial base in the mid-body, and again near the posterior base (Figure 2D–F). Ventral cirri are not distinct in the anterior part, but are well-developed in the posterior part (Figure 4F). Retractable branchiae are present at chaetigers 27–31. Notochaetae slender capillaries with one margin covered with spines or hairs (Figure 4A,C). There are neurochaetae homogomph spinigers (based on SEM) (Figure 4B), as well as a pygidium with a terminal pair of slender, elongated cirri (Figure 3G).

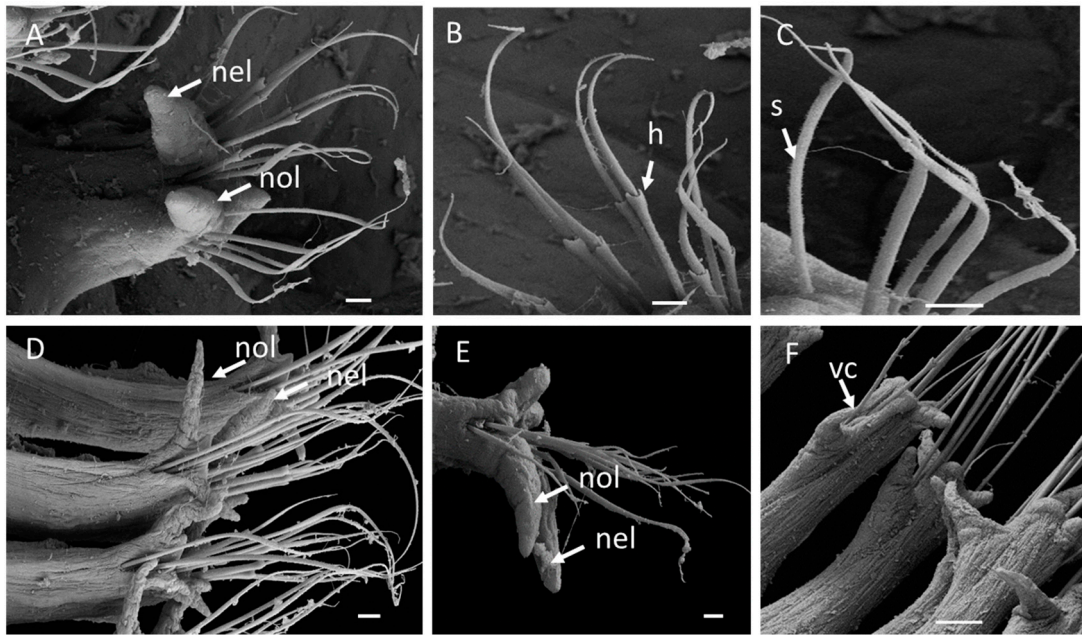
The proboscis is very long, equal to 28 segments, bell-shaped, and densely covered with papillae, which are arranged in distinct longitudinal rows (Figures 2A and 3A,B). The papillae consist of three types: (1) numerous, conical papillae with three “V”-shaped ridges on posterior surface from top to bottom (Figure 5C,D); (2) a few long, conical papillae, with one straight, median longitudinal ridge (Figure 5C,D); and (3) very few, slightly shorter and broader, rounded papillae with a single very distinct median longitudinal ridge (Figure 5C,D). Among the three types, type 2 is the longest. All papillae have small ciliated pores (Figure 5D) and are smooth anteriorly. The terminal part of proboscis has four black hook-shaped jaws and accessory “Y”-shaped ailerons with gently incised triangular bases (Figure 3B).



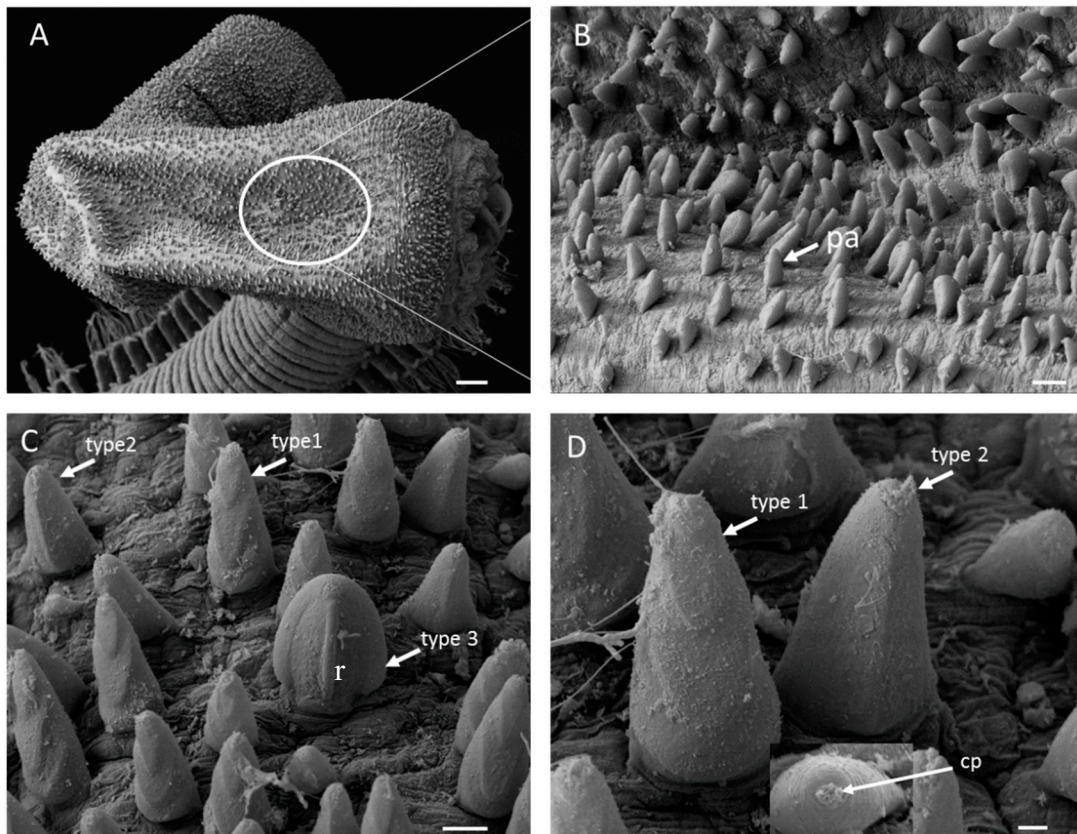
**Figure 2.** *Glycera sheikhmujibi* n. sp.: (A) anterior dorsal view, (B) anterior lateral view, (C) lateral view of anterior chaetigers, (D) mid-body chaetigers, (E) lower mid-body chaetigers, (F) posterior chaetigers. j: jaw, a: antenna, p: proboscis, pr: prostomium, dc: dorsal cirri, nol = notopodial lobe, nel = neuropodial lobe; scale bars: 0.1 mm.



**Figure 3.** *Glycera sheikhmujibi* n. sp. scanning electron microscope (SEM) images of the (A) anterior lateral view, (B) terminal ring of the jaws, (C) enlarged view of prostomium, (D) anterior chaetigers, (E) mid-body chaetigers, (F) lower mid-body chaetigers, and (G) posterior chaetigers. ai: aileron, j: jaw, a: antenna, vc: ventral cirri, nol= notopodial lobe, nel= neuropodial lobe, ac: annul cirri; scale bars: A and B = 200  $\mu$ m, C and D= 100  $\mu$ m, E = 20  $\mu$ m, F = 10  $\mu$ m, G = 20  $\mu$ m.



**Figure 4.** *Glycera sheikhmujibi* n. sp. SEM images of the (A) anterior parapodium, (B) compound neurochaetae, (C) capillary notochaetae, (D) mid-body parapodia, (E) posterior parapodium, and (F) posterior end parapodia. h: homogomph spinigers, nol: notopodial lobe, nel: neuropodial lobe, s: spines, vc: ventral cirri. Scale bars: A, B, C, and E = 10  $\mu$ m; D = 20  $\mu$ m; F = 30  $\mu$ m.



**Figure 5.** *Glycera sheikhmujibi* n. sp. SEM images of the (A) proboscis; (B) enlarged view of the proboscideal papillae; (C) posterior side view of type 1, type 2, and type 3 papillae; and (D) enlarged view of type 1 and type 2 papillae. cp: ciliated pore, pa: papillae, r: ridge. Scale bars: A = 100  $\mu$ m, B = 20  $\mu$ m, C = 10  $\mu$ m, and D = 2  $\mu$ m.

### 3.5.2. Etymology

The new species *Glycera sheikhmujibi* n. sp. was named in memory of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (shortened as Sheikh Mujib; 1920–1975), founder of Bangladesh. Sheikh Mujib was president (in absentia from 17 April 1971 to 12 January 1972), prime minister (12 January 1972 to 24 January 1975), and then president again of Bangladesh (25 January 1975 to 15 August 1975) in the early to mid-70s of the last century. He made an undeniable and significant contribution to the emergence of independent Bangladesh. He inspired the people of East Pakistan to stand up against the oppression of the Pakistani ruler and fight for the independence of the country with his solid, dedicated, and visionary leadership. After independence, he realized that the growth and prosperity of the country would have not been possible without proper research in different fields of science, and hence he established many research organizations, including BARC (Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council) and BCSIR (Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research). While he was in power, he invested his wholehearted efforts building a "Sonar Bangla" to ensure peace and prosperity for all. Unfortunately, he was assassinated, along with most of his family members, on 15 of August 1975 by a group of disgruntled army officials. This year (17 March 2020 to 17 March 2021), Bangladesh is celebrating the "Mujib Year", on the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has also decided to jointly celebrate the "Mujib Year" with Bangladesh at its 40th General Assembly.

### 3.6. Distribution, Ecology, and Habitat

*Glycera sheikhmujibi* n. sp. is one of 11 species in the genus *Glycera* distributed in the Bay of Bengal region, and is the second species from Bangladeshi coastal waters. Currently, it is only known from the type locality on the central coast of Bangladesh; however, increased sample collection from other parts of the coastline might extend its distribution range. Sympatric species include *Nephtys bangladeshi*, *Lumbrineris* spp., *Capitella* spp., *Goniada* spp., *Nereis* spp., *Magelona* spp., and Naidadae, as well as the crustacean groups Ocypodidae, Palaemonidae, Gammaridae, and Harpacticoida. The species was collected from the muddy saltmarsh zone (intertidal zone), with a water depth range of 0.5 to 1.0 m during high tide. The zone is densely covered with the grass *Spartina* spp. and connected to the Meghna River Estuary, which falls to the Bay of Bengal near Hatiya and Swandwip islands. The average salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, alkalinity, and temperature was 6 ppt, 9.15 ppm, 7.72, 180 ppm, and 29 °C, respectively.

## 4. Discussion

The main diagnostic characteristics for the identification of glycerid species include shape and number of pre- and post-chaetal lobes, presence or absence of branchiae, shape of the aileron, and the structure of proboscoidal papillae [2]. However, Fiege and Böggemann [23] and Rizzo et al. [1] found that parapodial lobes and branchiae are not reliable characters, because branchiae are retractable in some species, and the shape (size) and number of pre- and post-chaetal lobes are difficult to evaluate for some species. Therefore, they suggested the proboscoidal papillae and ailerons to be the most reliable characters for the identification of species of *Glycera*. *Glycera sheikhmujibi* n. sp. can easily be distinguished from all other species of *Glycera* by the presence of three distinct types and shapes of proboscoidal papillae (Table 1).

**Table 1.** List of *Glycera* recorded from near the Bay of Bengal Region, with their comparative characteristics, as per World Register of Marine Species, WoRMS [24].

Species	Type locality	Data Source	Body Length, Width (Max) in mm, No. of Chaetigers (Holotype/ Neotype)	Body Pigmentation	Prostomium Shape, No. of Rings, and No. of Prostomium Antenna	Proboscis Arrangement, and Type and Shape of Papillae
<i>Glycera brevicirris</i> Grube, 1870 [14]	Indonesia, Philippines, Indian Ocean	Based on Rizzo et al. [1]	13 mm, 2 mm for 44 chaetigers (syntype)	Yellowish	Conical with 10 rings	Two types of papillae; type 1—numerous, digitiform, anteriorly smooth; and type 2—isolated, broader with longitudinal ridge
<i>G. cinnamomea</i> Grube, 1874 [25]	Sri Lanka, India	Based on original description	94 mm, 3 mm at 75 chaetiger, 195 chaetigers (holotype)	White	Conical with 11 rings	Papillae short and digitiform
<i>G. embranchiata</i> Krishnamoorthi, 1962 [26]	India	Nomen dubium			-	-
<i>G. lancadivae</i> Schmarda, 1861 [13]	Sri Lanka	Based on original description	50 mm, 3mm, 158 (holotype)	Yellowish-brown	Reversed cone, below the jaws. 16 larger	Hair-like papillae
<i>G. manorae</i> Fauvel, 1932[27]	Manora Shoal, Karachi, India	Based on original description	70 mm, 5 mm, n/a (holotype)	n/a	Acutely conical, with 10–12 rings and four tentacles	Small, cylindrical, unguiculate papillae
<i>G. posterobranchia</i> Hoagland, 1920 [28]	Marinduque Island, Philippines	Original	75 mm, 3 mm, 90 (holotype)	Light brown	n/a, equal in length to first eight chaetigers	Two kinds of papillae: sucker-like and large blunt conical
<i>G. rutilans</i> Grube in McIntosh, 1885 [29]	Sri Lanka	Nomen nudum				
<i>G. sagittariae</i> McIntosh, 1885 [29]	Off Arrou Island, Madras coast, India	Based on original description	110, 5, n/a	Not available (n/a)	n/a	Two types of papillae: short, globular or ovate; and long and slender without terminal nail-like appendage.
<i>G. subaenea</i> Grube, 1878 [30]	Philippines	Based on original description	52 mm, 2.2 mm for 166 (holotype) segments	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>G. tessellata</i> Grube, 1863 [31]	India	Based on original description	48 mm, 6 mm, incomplete	n/a	Prostomium with 16–17 rings	n/a
<i>Glycera sheikhmujibi</i> n. sp.	Noakhali, Bangladesh	Based on present study	42 mm and 2.2 mm for 158 segments	Whitish with black numerous black spot	Conical prostomium with 10–11 rings	Three types of papillae: type 1—numerous, digitiform with 2–3 ridges; type 2—isolated with one median straight ridge; and type 3—broader with a longitudinal ridge
	Jaws and Aileron	Noto- & neuropodia; anterior and posterior chaetigers	Branchiae	Chaetae	Remarks	



<i>Glycera brevicirris</i> Grube, 1870 [14]	Aileron is triangular, with an elongated process on one side	Anterior parapodia uniramous with a pre- and postchaetal lobe where dorsal cirrus absent; posterior parapodia biramous with two triangular to digitiform prechaetal lobes	Absent	Parapodia with 2–4 simple capillary notochaetae and 5–13 spinigerous neurochaetae
<i>G. cinnamomea</i> Grube, 1874 [25]	n/a	n/a		
<i>G. embranchiata</i> Krishnamoorthi, 1962 [26]	Nomen dubium			Böggemann [2] reported as a nomen nudum
<i>G. lancadivae</i> Schmarda, 1861 [13]	Jaws with large tooth and have a bent process	Parapodia biramous and tongue-like, but in the anterior segments cylindrical; dull, cone-shaped ventral cirrus in the first segments, pointed cone in the posterior segments	Branchiae absent in posterior segments	Few chaetae—curved and capillary, and partly spinigers
<i>G. manorae</i> Fauvel, 1932 [27]	Jaws obliquely truncated, aileron is triangular with an elongated process on one side	Parapodia with two sharp, triangular, equal anterior lobes and two similar but shorter blunt posterior lobes; dorsal cirrus elongated, knob near base of parapodia and ventral cirrus triangular	Retractile branchiae beginning at about the 17th foot	Dorsal capillary chaetae with narrow wings; ventral chaetae compound homogomph with finely serrated terminal piece.
<i>G. posterobranchia</i> Hoagland, 1920 [28]	Jaws with lateral appendages	Anterior parapodia with long, conical dorsal lobes; posterior parapodia elongated, divided into one dorsal and two ventral rami; dorsal cirrus a rounded tubercle and ventral cirrus similar shape to dorsal lobe	Branchiae begins at 25th chaetiger as small knobs at the dorsal base of parapodia	Two kinds: simple dorsal capillaries with finely serrated edges and ventral compounds with finely serrated blade

<i>G. rutilans</i> Grube in McIntosh, 1885 [29]	Nomen nudum			Böggemann [2] reported as a nomen nudum
<i>G. sagittariae</i> Fauvel, 1932 [27]	Aileron with two long dagger-like processes	Parapodia with two equal elongated, tapering anterior lobes, and two equal, blunt, triangular posterior lobes; dorsal cirrus more or less remote	Present, simple and short beginning at 40th segment	n/a
<i>G. subaenea</i> Grube, 1878 [30]	n/a	Posterior parapodial lobes longer than the anterior ones; lower lobes triangular and wider than the upper ones, anterior lobes equally long, rounded	Branchiae present and positioned at the anterior wall of parapodium, separated into 2–3 fingerlike filaments, longer than ventral cirrus	n/a
<i>G. tessellata</i> Grube, 1863 [31]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Glycera sheikhmuji</i> n.sp.	Dark, hook- shaped jaws and ailerons with gently incised bases	Parapodia with digitiform prechaetal and postchaetal lobes; knob-like dorsal cirrus along the body and long ventral cirrus present posteriorly	Branchiae present, retractile, commencing from the 27th to 31st segments	5–6 slender capillary notochaetae

*Glycera sheikhmuji* n. sp. shares no diagnostic characteristics with either *Glycera lancadivae*, the only known species from Bangladesh [12], or fragments of another glycerid described by Muir and Hossain [16]; however, it clearly differs in many other aspects, especially in the form of three distinct types of proboscoidal papillae. Again, Böggemann [2] mentioned that *G. lancadivae* is a nomen dubium, and it is almost similar to *G. brevicirris*. *Glycera sheikhmuji* n. sp. seems to resemble *Glycera nicobarica* Grube, 1867 [32] and *Glycera macintoshi* Grube, 1877 [33] in the shape of ailerons, parapodial lobes, and types and shapes of the proboscoidal papillae (Table 1). However, *G. nicobarica* and *G. macintoshi* have only two different types of papillae: *G. nicobarica* possesses few ovate papillae without ridges, and numerous leaf-like ones with five to six “U”-shaped ridges, and *G. macintoshi* has conical proboscoidal papillae with three transverse ridges. Recently, *G. nicobarica* has been synonymized with *Glycera unicornis* Lamarck, 1818 by Read [24]. It has been argued that the proboscoidal papillae may vary due to preservation, sample preparation, and development of papillae; however, for the sample collection and preservation of *G. sheikhmuji* n. sp., standard procedures were followed.

In addition, *G. sheikhmuji* n. sp. differs from *G. macintoshi* by the presence of two equal triangular pre- and postchaetal lobes, whereas shorter, rounded neuropodial postchaetal lobes are present in *G. macintoshi*. *Glycera embranchiata* Krishnamoorthi, 1962 [26] (known from India) is a nomen dubium, as there is no description of the species in the original report, and *G. rutilans* Grube, 1877 [33] (known from Sri Lanka) is nomen nudum, as reported in Böggemann [2]. *Glycera convoluta*, *G. longipinnis*, *G. rouxii*, and *Glycinde oligodon*, all reported from the Bay of Bengal region, have not been accepted by Böggemann [2], as *G. convoluta* is a junior synonym of *G. tridactyla*, *G. longipinnis* is a junior synonym of *G. sphyrabrancha*, *G. rouxii* is a junior synonym of *G. unicornis*, and *Glycinde oligodon* belongs to the family Goniadidae. Although *Glycera tesselata* Grube, 1863 [31] is a good species and is accepted by Böggemann [2] and Read [24], it is poorly described in the original description.

The first procedure in any ecological work or applied research with organisms is an exercise in taxonomy. Taxonomy provides the fundamental understanding about the components of biodiversity, which is badly needed for effective decision-making regarding conservation, management, and sustainable use of the studied organisms. In addition, the loss of biodiversity due to human activities and climate change should be of major concern to everyone, because it threatens the functioning of an ecosystem. Despite this, there is very little information on the taxonomy of polychaetes from Bangladeshi coastal waters compared with those of neighbouring countries. To date, only thirty species have been identified from Bangladesh, which is a very low number compared to known polychaete species (~10,000) in the world. With a diverse coastline of about 720 km, it is hoped that the number of polychaete species will be increased with further studies.

Key to the species of genus *Glycera* from the Bay of Bengal region (modified from Muir and Hossain [15]) is as follows:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Proboscideal papillae do not have a terminal fingernail structure  | 2   |
|   | – Proboscideal papillae have a terminal fingernail structure   | 6   |
| 2 | There is one postchaetal lobe in all parapodia   | 3   |
|   | – There are two postchaetal lobes (at least) on the mid-body parapodia   | 5   |
| 3 | Mid-body, the notopodial prechaetal lobes are shorter than the neuropodial lobes, and branchiae are absent   | <i>Glycera lapidum</i> Quatrefages, 1866 [24].    |
|   | – Mid-body, the prechaetal lobes are about same length or longer than the notopodial lobes. Branchiae are present or absent  | 4   |
| 4 | The proboscideal papillae are digitiform and without ridges, ailerons have deeply incised bases, and simple digitiform branchiae are situated termino-dorsally on the parapodia  | <i>Glycera sphyrabrancha</i> Schmarda, 1861 [12]. |
|   | – Conical proboscideal papillae with 5–20 transverse ridges, ailerons have slightly arched bases, and branchiae are absent   | <i>Glycera oxycephala</i> Ehlers, 1887 [25].      |
| 5 | Ailerons have gently incised bases; long, mid-body postchaetal lobes are digitiform and of about equal length; three types of proboscideal papillae, with the main type having fewer than three ridges; and branchiae are absent | <i>Glycera sheikhmuji</i> n. sp.                  |

- Ailerons have an interamal plate and triangular bases; mid-body parapodia have slender, triangular, notopodial and distinctly shorter, rounded neuropodial postchaetal lobes. The retractile branchiae are situated medially on anterior side of parapodia 7
- 6 Digitiform proboscideal papillae have a straight, median, longitudinal ridge  
*Glycera tessellata* Grube, 1863 [26].
- Digitiform proboscideal papillae have 6–20 transverse ridges  
*Glycera brevicirris* Grube, 1870 [13].
- 7 Parapodia have slender, triangular, notopodial and distinctly shorter, rounded, neuropodial postchaetal lobes; and branchiae are simple, digitiform, and retractile  
*Glycera nicobarica* Grube, 1867 [18].
- Parapodia have two slender, triangular postchaetal lobes of about the same length, or notopodial lobes that are only slightly longer than the neuropodial lobes; branchiae are digitiform and retractile with 1–2 rami  
*Glycera unicornis* Lamarck, 1818 [14].
- 8 The mid-body parapodia have two slender, triangular postchaetal lobes of about the same length 9
- The mid-body parapodia have slender, triangular notopodial and shorter, more or less rounded, neuropodial postchaetal lobes 10
- 9 Parapodia do not have branchiae  
*Glycera onomichiensis* Izuka, 1912 [27].
- There are 1–5 digitiform branchial rami situated dorsally on the parapodial bases  
*Glycera cinnamomea* Grube, 1874 [19].
- 10 In mid-body and posterior parapodia, the neuropodial postchaetal lobes are more or less rounded. Simple digitiform branchiae are situated termino-dorsally on the parapodia 11
- In the posterior parapodia are neuropodial postchaetal lobes as long as the notopodial lobes, and equally slender and triangular. Simple digitiform branchiae are situated medio-dorsally on the parapodia  
*Glycera posterobranchia* Hoagland, 1920 [28].
- 11 All biramous parapodia have two postchaetal lobes. Proboscideal papillae have long, medium, or short stalks. 12
- In the anterior parapodia, there is only one, medially inserted, slender triangular postchaetal lobe. The proboscideal papillae have short stalks  
*Glycera macrobranchia* Moore, 1911 [29].
- 12 Proboscideal papillae have long stalks 13
- Proboscideal papillae have medium-length or short stalks 14
- 13 There are stalk without ridges and ailerons with pointed triangular bases  
*Glycera alba* Müller, 1776 [30].
- There are stalks with numerous ridges and ailerons with triangular bases  
*Glycera natalensis* Day, 1967 [31].
- 14 The proboscideal papillae have short stalks, the prostomium consists of about 11–15 rings, and ailerons have triangular bases  
*Glycera tridactyla* Schmarda, 1861 [12].
- The proboscideal papillae have medium-length stalks, the prostomium consists of about 19–28 rings, and ailerons have pointed triangular bases  
*Glycera africana* Arwidsson, 1899 [32].

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization: M.B.H.; methodology: M.B.H.; formal analysis: M.B.H.; investigation: M.B.H.; writing—original draft preparation: M.B.H.; writing—review and editing: P.H.; visualization: P.H.; resources: P.H.; supervision: P.H. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

**Acknowledgments:** Thanks are due to AMRI (Australian Museum Research Institute) for providing lab space, facilities, and access to the library. We would like to thank Sue Lindsay, who helped greatly with the SEM photographs. Field and lab assistance was provided by some students, namely Amir, Jewel, Tanmay, and Rasel, and the Milonof Fisheries and Marine Science Department are acknowledged.

**Funding:** This research received no external funding

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors have no conflict of interest.

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