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Cover: Whale Shark *Rhincodon typus* and Reef - made with poster colours. © P. Kritika.

Table 1. Distribution of the genus *Rhynchostegiella* in peninsular India.

Species	Distribution in India	References
<i>Rhynchostegiella humillima</i> (Mitt.) Broth.	Tamil Nadu	Mitten 1856; Foreau 1931; Vohra 1983; Daniels 2010
<i>Rhynchostegiella leiopoda</i> Dixon & Cardot	Tamil Nadu	Brühl 1931; Foreau 1931; Daniels 2010
<i>Rhynchostegiella menadensis</i> (Sande Lac.) E.B. Bartram	Uttarakhand	Bargali et al. 2014
<i>Rhynchostegiella scabriseta</i> (Schwagr.) Broth.	Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Uttarakhand	Robinson 1968; Alam 2013; Govndapyari 2014; Bahuguna et al. 2016
<i>Rhynchostegiella fabroniadelphus</i> (Müll. Hal.) Broth.	Palni hills	Dandotiya et al. 2011
<i>Rhynchostegiella tenella</i> (Dicks.) Limpr.	Kerala	Mufeed et al. 2021

RESULT

Among the six species reported from India, *Rhynchostegiella menadensis* (Sande Lac.) E.B. Bartram was reported earlier from Uttarakhand, and *R. scabriseta* (Schwagr.) Broth. was reported from Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, and Uttarakhand. Hence the present study reports these two species from peninsular India as new records.

Rhynchostegiella menadensis (Sande Lac.) E.B. Bartram, Philipp. J. Sci. 68: 302.1933.

Type locality: Mindanao Island, Philippines

Plant is yellowish-green, glossy, loose mat on log, bark; main stem creeping, 2–3 cm long, pinnately branched, branches short, feathery, loosely foliate; leaves erect-spreading, $0.8\text{--}0.9 \times 0.37\text{--}0.4$ mm, ovate-lanceolate, base wide, auriculate, acuminate tip, faintly denticulate at base; costa single, reached middle; basal cells rhomboid, $30\text{--}35 \times 7\text{--}9$ μm ; elongated rhomboid, $62\text{--}80 \times 3\text{--}5$ μm at middle and tip; alar cells undifferentiated; branch leaves narrow, ovate-lanceolate, $1.5\text{--}1.6 \times 0.36\text{--}0.38$ mm, decurrent base, acuminate at apex; sporophyte not known.

Habitat: Seen on logs and bark along with *Meteoriopsis reclinata* (Müll. Hal.) M. Fleisch. in the shola forest (Image 1).

Distribution: China, India (Uttarakhand (Bargali et al. 2014)), Indonesia, Philippines (Shevock & Yorong 2018) and Thailand. The present report based on recent collection is a new record for peninsular India.

Specimens examined: India, Kerala, Idukki District, Mathikettan Shola National Park, Sivanpara (1,550 m), 28.xi.2012, Rajilesh V.K. 8236b; Chundel (1,450 m), 08.iv.2013, Rajilesh V.K. 9406; Vattapara (1,620 m), 28.xi.2014, Rajilesh V.K. 11640 (MBGH).

Rhynchostegiella scabriseta (Schwagr.) Broth., Nat. Pflanzenfam. I (3): 1161. 1909.

Type locality: Nepal

Plant is yellowish-green, glossy tufted on bark, on soil

cutting; main stem prostrate, short, pinnately branched; branches erect, 2–2.5 cm long, densely foliate; leaves whorled, erect-spreading, imbricate, $1.6\text{--}1.7 \times 0.6\text{--}0.66$ mm, ovate-lanceolate, base wide, decurrent, apex narrow acuminate, shortly denticulate margin; costa single, reached above the middle; leaf cells narrow, elongated-rhomboid $28\text{--}43 \times 4.2\text{--}5.5$ μm from base to apex; alar rectangular, $16\text{--}23 \times 9\text{--}11$ μm ; sporophytes on main branch; seta erect, 1.8–2 mm long, brownish, rough; capsule erect, ovate-cylindrical, brownish, 2.2–2.5 mm long, 0.5 mm in diameter; peristome normal (Image 2)

Habitat: Epiphytic on bark and on land cuttings along with other mosses *Hookeriopsis secunda* (Griff.) Broth. And *Plagiomnium rostratum* (Schrader) T.J. Kop. In the shola forest.

Distribution: **World:** India (Jammu & Kashmir (Alam 2013), Manipur (Govndapyari 2014), Himachal Pradesh (Alam 2013), Uttarakhand (Alam 2013; Bahuguna et al. 2016)) and Nepal. The present collection is a new record for peninsular India.

Specimens examined: India, Kerala, Idukki District., Mathikettan Shola National Park, Chundel (1,200 m), 09.iv.2013, Rajilesh V.K. 9450; Kurisukavala (1,550 m), 28.xi.2014, Rajilesh V.K. 11624; Karipara (1,650 m), 12.iii.2014, Rajilesh V.K. 10915; Aduvilanthankudi (1,600 m), 13.iii.2014, Rajilesh V.K. 10960 (MBGH).

DISCUSSION

The current study reveals that two *Rhynchostegiella* species have been recorded as an extended distribution record for peninsular Indian moss flora, bringing the total number of *Rhynchostegiella* species to six.

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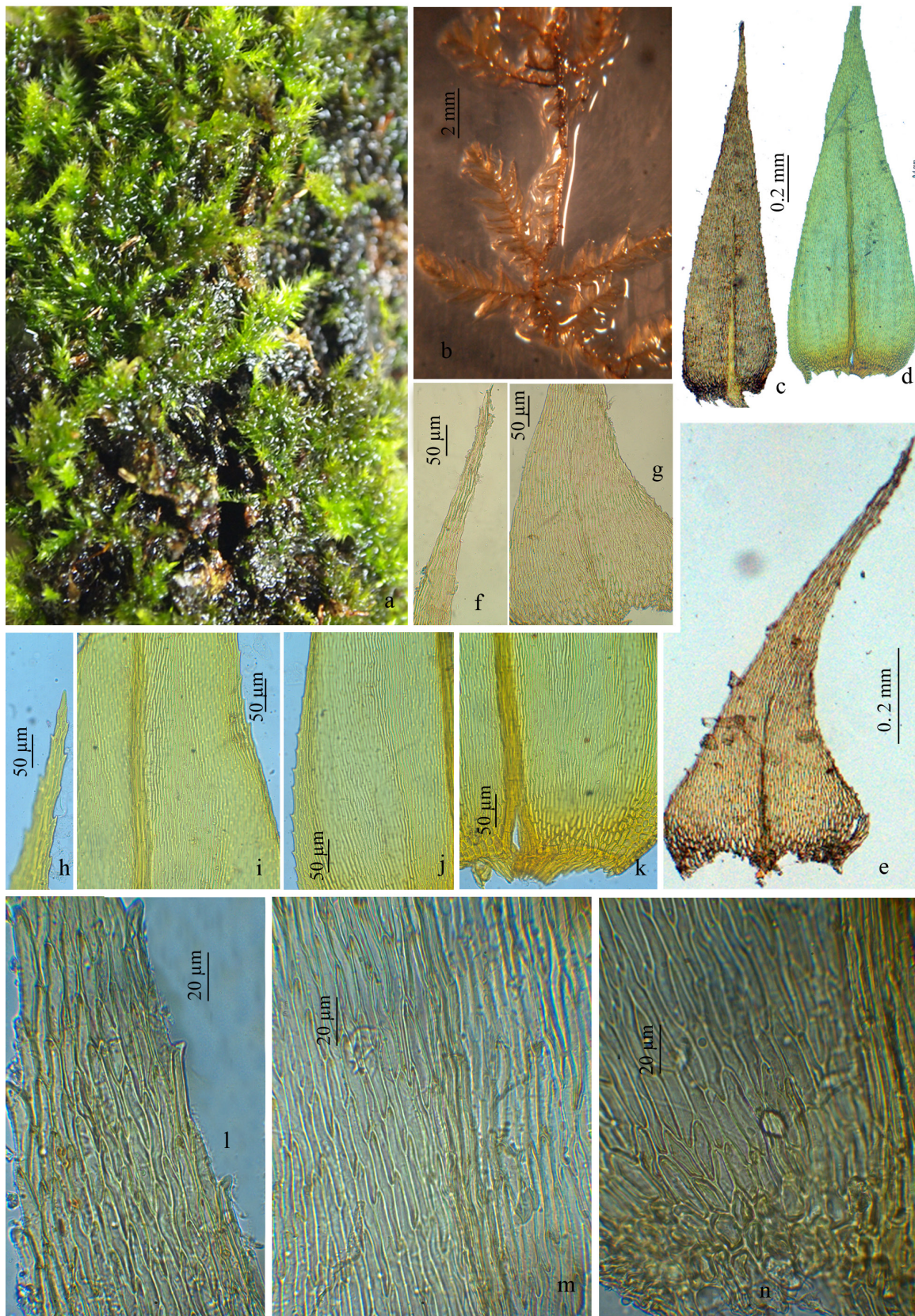


Image 1. *Rhynchostegiella menadensis* (Sande Lac.) E.B. Bartram: a—habit | b—branch enlarged | c&d—branch leaves | e—stem leaf | f—stem leaf upper cells | g—stem leaf lower cells | h—branch leaf upper cells | i—middle cells | j—marginal cells | k—basal cells | l—leaf upper cells enlarged | m—middle cells | n—basal cells. © Rajilesh, V.K.

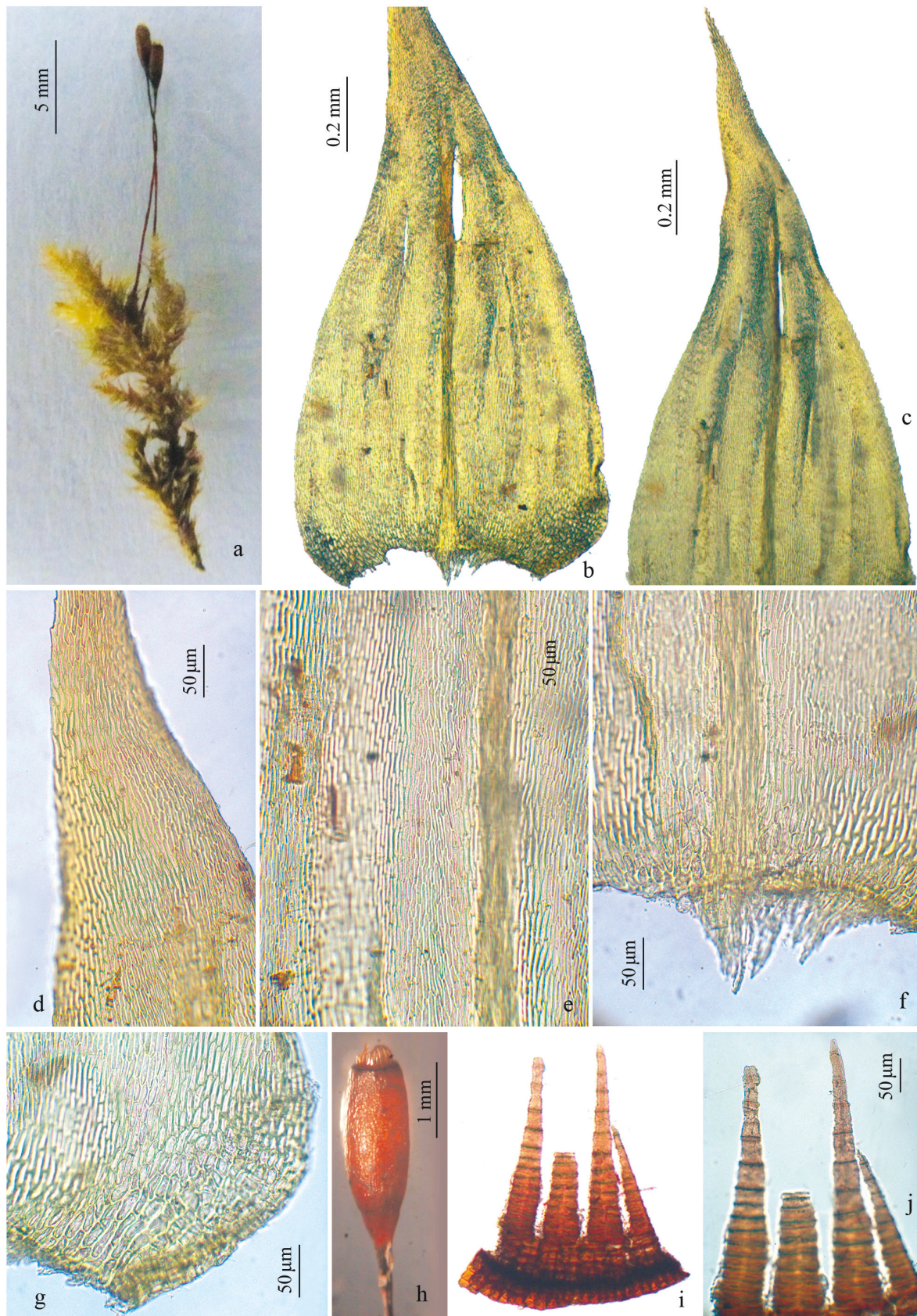


Image 2. *Rhynchostegiella scabriseta* (Schwagr.) Broth.: a—habit | b&c—leaf | d—leaf upper cells | e—leaf middle cells | f—leaf basal cells | g—basal cells at margin | h—sporophyte | i&j—peristome teeth. © Rajilesh, V.K.

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