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INDIAN ASCIDIANS OVER THE HUNDRED YEARS - A CHECKLIST

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ABSTRACT: The tropical climate of India and its vast stretches of coastline offers favorable features of environment for the settlement and continuous breeding of ascidians. They are well known for their pharmacologically potent secondary metabolites. In this paper a comprehensive updated checklist of the marine sedentary ascidians of the Indian coast is being presented which is the first of its kind giving a systematic taxonomic list of 263 species coming under 41 genera, 12 families, 3 suborders and 2 orders of the class Ascidiacea. This contribution to the knowledge on the biodiversity of ascidians giving the details of classification and current scientific names with the author would be beneficial to future workers and for taking up steps to conserve this group.

KEYWORDS: Indian coast, ascidians, Aplousobranchia, Phlebobranchia, Stolidobranchia.

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1.INTRODUCTION

The Indian seacoast extending to 8118 km lies distributed among the coastal states, union territories and islands. Our coastal marine habitats have large diversity of sensitive ecosystems like sand dunes, coral reefs, sea grass beds, wet lands, mudflats, rocky and sandy shores along with backwaters, estuaries and coastal lagoons that support rich and diverse flora and fauna (Ingole, 2005) [1]. Among these, corals, sea grass, mangroves serve additional habitats for other organisms' especially sedentary ones. Sedentary organisms belonging to the phylum - Chordata; subphylum - Tunicata and class - Ascidiacea inhabit soft muddy flats, cracks and crevices of coral reefs, undersurface of calcrete rocks and have been noticed in fouling community, on hull of ships, barges, buoys, floats, aquaculture equipments, concrete, metal installations of harbors and almost all marine under water

structures. The intertidal rocky shores nourished by nutrient run off from land exhibits great species diversity and abundance of ascidians. They are filter, ciliary, mucous feeders enabling them to make use of all forms of food materials available in the water column which in turn adds to the organic matter of the ecosystem thus making their role indispensible. Ascidians occupying the intertidal rocky shores are adapted to overcome the vagaries caused by waves, tides, salinity, temperature and desiccation. They are highly invasive and in most harbors around the world ascidians introduced through hull of ships and ballast water is causing serious threat to the native fauna. In spite of this they serve as model organisms in various branches of biology and are the most wanted in the search for natural products research. This species list provides an insight into the enormous biodiversity of ascidians and the need to tap their potential for the benefit of the society. The first comprehensive work on the ascidians of Indian waters was a report upon ten Tunicates in the collection of the Indian Museum presented by Oka, 1915 [2]. The occurrence of five species of ascidians from the sea adjoining Tuticorin, Ennur and Bombay was reported by Das, 1936, 1938, 1940, 1945 [3,4,5,6]. Sebastian, 1952; 1953; 1954; 1955; 1956 described two new species, two new records and two fouling ascidians from Madras coast of Indian waters [7-11]. The occurrence of one species of the family Pyuridae from the Kerala coast of India was reported by Sebastian, 1959 [12]. Prakasam and Azariah, 1978 recorded the presence of one simple ascidian from Madras coast [13]. A brief account of 7 species of ascidians as new records to Indian coast was given by Sebastian and Kurian, 1981 [14]. The availability and detailed taxonomic descriptions of forty two species was given by Renganathan, 1981a, b; 1982a, b; Renganathan and Daniel, 1982; Renganathan, 1983a, b, c; 1984a, b, c, d, e; Renganathan and Monniot, 1984; Renganathan, 1985; Renganathan and Nelson, 1985; Renganathan and Krishnaswamy, 1985; Renganathan, 1986a, b, c with 27 species as first reports to India and five new species [15-34]. In addition to the above species, Krishnan *et al*., 1989 made a brief reference to the ascidian fauna of the Roypuram coast of Madras describing 4 species as new records [35]. Nagabhushanam and Krishnamoorthy, 1992 studied the occurrence and biology of the solitary ascidian *Ascidiella aspersa* from Tamil Nadu coastal waters [36]. A report on the preliminary survey of the sea adjoining the southeast coast of India for the collection of ascidians from the intertidal rocky shores, depth of 4-5 meters and pearl oyster cages from Thoothukudi to Rameswaram during the period 1994-1997 was given by Meenakshi, 1996, 1997, 2004 [37-39]. In a short span of three years 40 species of ascidians, two families (Holozoidae Berrill, 1950 and Corellidae Lahille, 1888) and 5 genera (*Distaplia* Della Valle, 1881; *Tridemnum* Della Valle, 1881; *Phallusia* Savigny, 1816; *Rhodosoma* Ehrenberg, 1828; *Eusynstyela* Michaelsen, 1904) has been described as new records. Detailed description of all the 40 species is available (Meenakshi and Renganathan, 1997; Meenakshi and Renganathan, 1998; Meenakshi, 1998a, b; Meenakshi and Renganathan, 1999a, b; Meenakshi, 2000a, b; Meenakshi and Venugopal, 2000; Meenakshi, 2002, 2005; Meenakshi and Senthamarai, 2006a, b; 2007a, b; Meenakshi, 2009) [40-55]. The first

extensive biological resources survey of the ascidians of Indian water was done during 2000-2003 by Meenakshi, 2003 [56]. Sampling was carried out from different habitats like trawl discards, intertidal rocky areas, deep sea (SCUBA), hull of ships, barges, mangrove, sea water inlet and outlet pipelines, filters of desalination plants, pearl, edible oyster farm, cages, oyster, chank, mussel beds, fishing harbor, fish, mussel landing centers, harbour installations, coral reef, marine aquarium tanks and fouling panels of 520 stations spread along the Indian coast from Visakhapatnam in the east coast to Mumbai in the west coast with a sincere and deeper survey of the Gulf of Mannar waters which included 263 stations. The presence of 359 species of ascidians belonging to 36 genera under 10 families was listed. 10 genera - *Aplidiopsis* Lahille, 1890; *Synoicum* Phipps, 1774; *Cystodytes* Drasche, 1884; *Polycitor* Renier, 1804; *Exostoma* Kott, 1990; *Leptoclinides* Bjerkan, 1905; *Polysyncraton* Nott, 1892; *Botryllus* Gaertner, 1774; *Boltenia* Van Name, 1945; *Ctenyura* Van Name, 1918; 133 species were new records (Meenakshi 2003; Meenakshi, 2008; Meenakshi, 2012; Meenakshi and Senthamrai, 2013a) [56-59]. 34 species of ascidians were reported as associated with coral reef from Tuticorin coast (Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi and Senthamarai, 2004, 2005, 2006c) [60-63]. Abdul Jaffar Ali *et al*., 2010 recorded 23 species of ascidians from the south west coast of India with a brief account of 7 species - *Polyclinum tenuatum*, *Aplidiopsis confluata*, *Synoicum prunum*, *Didemnum fragile*, *Didemnum tonga*, *Tridemnum miniatum* and *Tridemnum spumosum* [64]. Veena Shettigar & Kaladharan, 2010 reported the occurrence of ascidian *Molgula pyriformis* from the coastal waters of Visakhapatnam, India [65]. Venkataraman *et al*., 2012 reported the availability of 6 species of ascidians - *Clavelina moluccensis*, *Atriolum robustum*, *Botrylloides leachii*, *Perophora modificata*, *Didemnum molle* and *Phallusia arabica* from the Andaman Sea [66]. Senthamarai, 2013 conducted a survey of the Gulf of Mannar region by collecting ascidians from trawl discards, chank, mussel beds, intertidal rocky area and from a depth of 2-6 m and reported the presence of 3 families - Polyclinidae, Polycitoridae and Didemnidae and 9 genera - *Aplidium*, *Eudistoma*, *Polycitor*, *Didemnum*, *Diplosoma*, *Leptoclinides*, *Lissoclinum*, *Polysyncraton*, *Tridemnum* and 26 species [67]. Of these, one species - *Aplidium digitalis* is new to science and the remaining 25 species are new records to the Gulf of Mannar. A detailed account of the morphological and anatomical features of 26 species is given by Meenakshi and Senthamarai, 2012, 2013b, 2014; Meenakshi *et al*., 2014; Senthamarai *et al*., 2015, 2016a, 2016b [68-74]. Ananthan, 2014 reported 14 species and Ananthan *et al*., 2015 recorded 6 species - *Botrylloides leachii*, *Botrylloides pizoni*, *Clavelina picta*, *Clavelina robusta*, *Phallusia julinea* and *Polycarpa pigmentata* as new records from the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve [75,76]. Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015 reported the diversity of ascidians from South Andaman and added 23 species [77]. Abdul Jaffar Ali *et al*., 2015 documented 3 species - *Botryllus niger*, *Eudistoma sluiteri*, *Microcosmus sulcatus* as new records from the south west coast of India [78]. An Inventory of Ascidian Fauna from the Indian Coast giving a brief account of 57 species of which 8 species - *Eudistoma carnosum*, *Synoicum*

citrum, *Synoicum galei*, *Aplidiopsis confluata*, *Tridemnum caelatum*, *Tridemnum vermiforme*, *Didemnum spadix*, *Diplosoma simileguwa* as new records was published by Abdul Jaffar Ali and Tamilselvi, 2016 [79]. Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2016 reported three stolidobranch ascidians - *Pyura curvigona* Tokioka, 1950; *Herdmania papietensis* (Herdman, 1882); *Halocynthia spinosa* Sluiter, 1905 associated with coral reef from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as new records [80]. Jhimli Mondal and Raghunathan, 2016 gave the taxonomic characters of 2 Pyurid ascidians - *Pyura isobella* Kott, 1985 and *Pyura sacciformes* (Drasche, 1884) collected from buoys and reef ecosystem of Andaman Sea [81]. Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2017a,b gave a short account of 6 Aplousobranch ascidians *Rhopalaea circula* Monniot and Monniot, 2001; *Rhopalaea fusca* (Herdman, 1880); *Clavelina australis* (Herdman, 1899); *Clavelina fecunda* (Sluiter, 1904); *Rhopalaea macrothorax* Tokioka, 1953 and *Clavelina robusta* Kott, 1990 as new records from Andaman and Nicobar Islands [82,83]. Stalin *et al*., 2017 reported the presence of 4 photosynthetic ascidians from Andaman and Nicobar Islands [84]. Meenakshi and Gomathy, 2017 assessed the influence of habitat destruction on ascidian biodiversity loss and stated the total disappearance of 24 species of ascidians from Tuticorin area [85]. This comprehensive updated checklist has been prepared on the basis of the taxonomic papers, textbooks, biological resources survey reports, status reports, Memoirs of Indian museum monograph, doctoral thesis, MPhil. Dissertation, Proceedings, special issues, compendium, Final Technical Reports of sponsored projects carried out especially on the assessment of the marine sedentary ascidians of Indian coast during the period of more than hundred years (1915 to 2018). The taxonomic status suggested by Kott, 1985, 1990, 1992, 2001 was followed for the suborders Aplousobranchia, Phlebobranchia and Stolidobranchia [86-89]. While preparing the list; species with uncertain identification or those that have been assigned only to the genus level due to the absence of zooids with fully mature gonads or larval forms for confirmation has not been added. Pioneering studies on the systematics of sedentary ascidians of Indian waters began in early 19th century by Oka, 1915. Uncertain species described by Oka are not considered here. Gravely, 1927 reported a number of ascidians from Krusadai Islands, Pamban and Rameswaram, the descriptions of which are incomplete, vague and the identification doubtful [90]. Venkat *et al*., 1995 reported the presence of 7 species from New Mangalore Port [91]. Many reports are available on the distribution and occurrences of ascidians on fouling panels. As these reports lack taxonomical description of the species, they are not considered. The data given includes the first report of the species even if it is in the form of listing and the descriptive paper also. Care was taken to bring the latest taxonomic status of the species incorporating their recent nomenclature avoiding synonyms as per World Register of Marine Species [92]. Ascidians are highly contractile. Unless the samples are properly narcotised and preserved it is very difficult to work on the taxonomic status of this group especially the colonial forms. This compilation is the first of its kind on ascidians of Indian water which has been prepared with utmost care keeping in mind the chaos that may arise due to misidentification.

All available literature have been carefully reviewed and presented taking pains to avoid errors and omissions.

2. CONCLUSION

From the review of literature it is evident that adequate information on the biodiversity and long term quantitative studies of Indian ascidians are lacking as the early collections were at wide intervals and later reports were random. The present analysis reveals the occurrence of 263 species belonging to the class Ascidiacea coming under 2 orders, 3 suborders, 12 families, 4 subfamilies and 41 genera. The list of species reported from Indian water with their classification is given in table 1. It shows that the order Enterogona is represented by 203 and Pleurogona by 60 species. The suborders Aplousobranchia, Phlebobranchia and Stolidobranchia are represented by 160, 43, 60 species respectively. In this compilation 2330 samples which includes those specimen collected by the author and that received from National Institutes for identification and assigned with Voucher Numbers and deposited in the Museum of the Department of Zoology, A.P.C. Mahalaxmi College for Women, Thoothukudi and the Museum of the PG & Research Department of Zoology, V.O. Chidambaram College, Thoothukudi have been studied in detail whereas samples of surveys by other authors have not been examined for taxonomic verification. In the present list corrections based on mistakes in the spelling of the species name and synonyms have been incorporated.

Table 1: A Checklist Of Indian Ascidians Over The Hundred Years

S. No.	Classification	Reference
	Phylum: Chordata Haeckel, 1874	
	Subphylum:Tunicata Lamarck, 1816	
	Class: Ascidiacea Nielsen, 1995	
I.	Order: Enterogona Perrier, 1898	
I.a.	Suborder: Aplousobranchia Lahille, 1887	
A	Family: Clavelinidae Forbes & Hanley, 1848	
I.	Genus: *Clavelina* Savigny, 1816	
1.	*Clavelina australis* (Herdman, 1899)	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2017a
2.	*Clavelina fecunda* (Sluiter, 1904)	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2017a
3.	*Clavelina moluccensis* (Sluiter, 1904)	Venkataraman *et al*., 2012; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015
4.	*Clavelina oblonga* Herdman, 1880	Ananthan, 2014
5.	*Clavelina picta* (Verrill, 1900)	Ananthan *et al*., 2015
6.	*Clavelina robusta* Kott, 1990	Ananthan *et al*., 2015; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2017b

II	Genus: *Pycnoclavella* Garstang, 1891	
7.	*Pycnoclavella diminuta* (Kott, 1957)	Ananthan, 2014
B	Family: Diazonidae Seeliger, 1906	
III	Genus: *Rhopalaea* Philippi, 1843	
8.	*Rhopalaea circula* Monniot & Monniot, 2001	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2017a
9.	*Rhopalaea fusca* (Herdman, 1880)	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2017a
10.	*Rhopalaea macrothorax* Tokioka, 1953	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2017b
C	Family: Polyclinidae Milne-Edwards, 1841	
IV	Genus: *Aplidiopsis* Lahille, 1890	
11.	*Aplidiopsis amoyense* Tokioka, 1967	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
12.	*Aplidiopsis confluata* Kott, 1992	Abdul Jaffar Ali *et al*., 2010; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
V	Genus: *Aplidium* Savigny, 1816	
13.	*Aplidium brevilarvacium* Kott, 1963	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2012; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013
14.	*Aplidium caelestis* Monniot, 1987	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
15.	*Aplidium digitalis* Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013b; Senthamarai, 2013
16.	*Aplidium directum* Kott, 1972	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
17.	*Aplidium distaplium* Kott, 1992	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2012; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013
18.	*Aplidium indicum* Renganathan & Monniot F., 1984	Renganathan & Monniot F., 1984; Renganathan, 1986c
19.	*Aplidium lunacratum* Kott, 1992	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Meenakshi &

		Senthamarai, 2013b; Senthamarai, 2013
20.	*Aplidium macrolobatum* Kott, 1992	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013b; Senthamarai, 2013
21.	*Aplidium mernooensis* (Brewin, 1956)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013b; Senthamarai, 2013
22.	*Aplidium minisculum* Kott, 1992	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
23.	*Aplidium multiplicatum* Sluiter, 1909	Renganathan & Monniot, 1984; Renganathan,1984d; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 2003; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015
24.	*Aplidium paralineatum* Kott, 1992	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
25.	*Aplidium pentatrema* Monniot F., 1972	Renganathan, 1986c
26.	*Aplidium pliciferum* (Redikorzev, 1927)	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015
27.	*Aplidium ritteri* (Sluiter, 1895)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
28.	*Aplidium rubricollum* Kott, 1963	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
29.	*Aplidium undulatum* Monniot F., & Gaill, 1978	Ananthan, 2014
30.	*Aplidium uteute* Monniot & Monniot, 1987	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
VI	Genus: *Polyclinum* Savigny, 1816	
31.	*Polyclinum constellatum* Savigny, 1816	Krishnan *et al*., 1989; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005;

		Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
32.	*Polyclinum fungosum* Herdman, 1886	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 1998b, Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
33.	*Polyclinum glabrum* Sluiter, 1895	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
34.	*Polyclinum incrustatum* Michaelsen, 1930	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
35.	*Polyclinum indicum* Sebastian, 1954	Sebastian, 1954; Sebastian & Kurian, 1981; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
36.	*Polyclinum madrasensis* Sebastian, 1952	Sebastian, 1952; Sebastian & Kurian, 1981; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
37.	*Polyclinum marsupiale* Kott, 1963	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
38.	*Polyclinum nudum* Kott, 1992	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 1998b; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
39.	*Polyclinum psammiferum* Hartmeyer, 1911	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
40.	*Polyclinum saturnium* Savigny, 1816	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
41.	*Polyclinum sundaicum* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 1998b; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016

42.	*Polyclinum tenuatum* Kott, 1992	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali *et al*., 2010; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
43.	*Polyclinum vasculosum* Pizon, 1908	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
VII	Genus: *Synoicum* Phipps, 1774	
44.	*Synoicum castellatum* Kott, 1992	Ananthan, 2014
45.	*Synoicum citrum* Kott, 1992	Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
46.	*Synoicum galei* (Michaelsen, 1930)	Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
47.	*Synoicum indicum* Meenakshi, 2003	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
48.	*Synoicum macroglossum* (Hartmeyer, 1919)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
49.	*Synoicum papiliferum* (Michaelsen, 1930)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
50.	*Synoicum prunum* (Herdman, 1899)	Abdul Jaffar Ali *et al*., 2010
D	Family: Holozoidae Berril, 1950	
VIII	Genus: *Distaplia* Della Valle, 1881	
51.	*Distaplia nathensis* Meenakshi, 1997	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 1998a; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
E	Family: Polycitoridae Michaelsen, 1904	
IX	Genus: *Cystodytes* Drasche, 1884	
52.	*Cystodytes dellechiajei* (Della Valle, 1877)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
X	Genus: *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909	
53.	*Eudistoma amplum* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
54.	*Eudistoma angolanum* (Michaelsen, 1914)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a

55.	*Eudistoma carnosum* Kott, 1990	Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
56.	*Eudistoma constrictum* Kott, 1990	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2002; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
57.	*Eudistoma eboreum* Kott, 1990	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
58.	*Eudistoma gilboviride* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2015; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
59.	*Eudistoma glacum* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
60.	*Eudistoma globosum* Kott, 1957	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
61.	*Eudistoma incubitum* Kott, 1990	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
62.	*Eudistoma kaverium* Meenakshi, 1997	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2002; Meenakshi, 2004
63.	*Eudistoma lakshmiani* Renganathan, 1986	Renganathan, 1986a; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
64.	*Eudistoma laysani* (Sluiter, 1900)	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2002, Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
65.	*Eudistoma loricatum* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
66.	*Eudistoma malum* Kott, 1990	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a

67.	*Eudistoma microlarvum* Kott, 1990	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
68.	*Eudistoma ovatum* (Herdman, 1886)	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2002; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
69.	*Eudistoma pyriforme* (Herdman, 1886)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2015; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
70.	*Eudistoma reginum* Kott, 1990	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
71.	*Eudistoma rubrum* Tokioka, 1954	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
72.	*Eudistoma sabulosum* Kott, 1990	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2015
73.	*Eudistoma sluiteri* Hartmeyer, 1909	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2015; Abdul Jaffar Ali *et al*., 2015; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
74.	*Eudistoma superlatum* Kott, 1990	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2015
75.	*Eudistoma toealensis* Millar, 1975	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2002; Meenakshi, 2004
76.	*Eudistoma tokarae* Tokioka, 1954	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
77.	*Eudistoma tumidum* Kott, 1990	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2015;

		Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
78.	*Eudistoma viride* Tokioka, 1955	Renganathan, 1982b; Renganathan, 1984a; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
79.	*Eudistoma vitiata* Kott, 1981	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
XI	Genus: *Exostoma* Kott, 1990	
80.	*Exostoma ianthium* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
XII	Genus: *Polycitor* Renier, 1804	
81.	*Polycitor calamus* Kott, 1990	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2014
F	Family: Didemnidae Giard, 1872	
XIII	Genus: *Atriolum* Kott, 1983	
82.	*Atriolum robustum* Kott, 1983	Venkataraman *et al*., 2012
XIV	Genus: *Didemnum* Savigny, 1816	
83.	*Didemnum albidum* (Verrill,1871)	Ananthan, 2014
84.	*Didemnum albopunctatum* Sluiter, 1909	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
85.	*Didemnum augusti* Michaelsen, 1920	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
86.	*Didemnum candidum* Savigny, 1816	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Ananthan, 2014
87.	*Didemnum chartaceum* Sluiter, 1909	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2016b

88.	*Didemnum cuculliferum* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2016b
89.	*Didemnum etiolum* Kott, 1982	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
90.	*Didemnum fragile* Sluiter, 1909	Meenakshi, 2003; Abdul Jaffar Ali *et al*., 2010; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
91.	*Didemnum fulgens* (Milne Edwards,1841)	Ananthan, 2014
92.	*Didemnum granulatum* Tokioka, 1954	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Ananthan, 2014; Senthamarai *et al*., 2016b
93.	*Didemnum lambitum* Sluiter, 1900	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
94.	*Didemnum ligulum* Monniot, F. 1983	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
95.	*Didemnum megasterix* Monniot, F. 1994	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
96.	*Didemnum membranaceum* Sluiter, 1909	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
97.	*Didemnum molle* (Herdman, 1886)	Meenakshi, 2003; Venkataraman *et al*., 2012; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Stalin *et al*., 2017
98.	*Didemnum moseleyi* (Herdman, 1886)	Meenakshi, 2003; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
99.	*Didemnum nekozita* Tokioka, 1967	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
100.	*Didemnum nigricans* Monniot, F. 1994	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
101.	*Didemnum obscurum* Monniot, F. 1969	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a

102.	*Didemnum ossium* Kott, 2001	Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2016b
103.	*Didemnum pardum* Tokioka, 1962	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
104.	*Didemnum psammatode* (Sluiter, 1895)	Renganathan, 1981a; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
105.	*Didemnum perlucidum* Monniot, F. 1983	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
106.	*Didemnum semifuscum* Sluiter, 1909	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
107.	*Didemnum spadix* Kott, 2001	Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
108.	*Didemnum spongioides* Sluiter, 1909	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2016b
109.	*Didemnum ternerratum* Kott, 2001	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2016b
110.	*Didemnum tonga* (Herdman, 1886)	Meenakshi, 2003; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali *et al*., 2010
111.	*Didemnum translucidum* Tokioka, 1953	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
112.	*Didemnum vahatuio* Monniot, C. & F. 1987	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
113.	*Didemnum vexillum* Kott, 2002	Ananthan, 2014
114.	*Didemnum viride* (Herdman, 1906)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
XV	Genus: *Diplosoma* Macdonald, 1859	
115.	*Diplosoma listerianum* (Milne-Edwards,	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi &

	1841)	Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
116.	*Diplosoma simileguwa* Oka & Hirose, 2005	Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
117.	*Diplosoma simile* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Ananthan, 2014; Stalin *et al*., 2017
118.	*Diplosoma spongiforme* (Giard, 1872)	Ananthan, 2014
119.	*Diplosoma swamiensis* Renganathan, 1986	Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
120.	*Diplosoma virens* (Hartmeyer, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2016b
XVI	Genus: *Leptoclinides* Bjerkan, 1905	
121.	*Leptoclinides doboensis* (Sluiter, 1913)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
122.	*Leptoclinides madara* Tokioka, 1953	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2016a
123.	*Leptoclinides reticulatus* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
124.	*Leptoclinides rufus* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2016a
XVII	Genus: *Lissoclinum* Verrill, 1871	
125.	*Lissoclinum abdominale* Monniot, F. 1983	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
126.	*Lissoclinum bistratum* (Sluiter, 1905a)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Abdul Jaffar Ali &

		Tamilselvi, 2016
127.	*Lissoclinum fragile* (Van Name, 1902)	Renganathan, 1982a; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
128.	*Lissoclinum patella* (Gottschaldt, 1898)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Stalin *et al*., 2017
129.	*Lissoclinum punctatum* Kott, 1977	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2016b
130.	*Lissoclinum tasmanense* (Kott, 1954)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
131.	*Lissoclinum textile* Monniot & Monniot, 2001	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
132.	*Lissoclinum timorense* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
133.	*Lissoclinum triangulum* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
XVIII	Genus: *Polysyncraton* Nott, 1892	
134.	*Polysyncraton aspiculatum* (Tokioka, 1949)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
135.	*Polysyncraton doboense* (Sluiter, 1913)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
136.	*Polysyncraton lithostrotum* (Brewin, 1956)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
137.	*Polysyncraton meandratum* Monniot, 1993	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
138.	*Polysyncraton millepore* Vasseur, 1969	Senthamarai, 2013; Meenakshi *et al*., 2014
139.	*Polysyncraton multipapillae* Monniot, 1993	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi &

		Senthamarai, 2013a
140.	*Polysyncraton pavimentum* Monniot, 1993	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
141.	*Polysyncraton rugosum* Monniot, 1993	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
142.	*Polysyncraton thallomorpha* Monniot, F.1993	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
143.	*Polysyncraton victoriensis* Kott, 1976	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
XIX	Genus: *Tridemnum* Della Valle, 1881	
144.	*Tridemnum caelatum* Kott, 2001	Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
145.	*Tridemnum cerebriforme* Hartmeyer, 1913	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2000b; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
146.	*Tridemnum clinides* Kott, 1977	Meenakshi, 2003; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
147.	*Tridemnum cyanophorum* Lafargue & Duclaux, 1979	Ananthan, 2014
148.	*Tridemnum cyclops* Michaelsen, 1921	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016; Stalin *et al*., 2017
149.	*Tridemnum discrepans* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
150.	*Tridemnum miniatum* Kott, 1977	Meenakshi, 2003; Abdul Jaffar Ali *et al*., 2010; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
151.	*Tridemnum nubilum* Kott, 1980	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2016b
152.	*Tridemnum paraclinides* Kott, 1982	Meenakshi, 2003; Senthamarai,

		2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
153.	*Tridemnum paracyclops* Kott, 1980	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Senthamarai, 2013; Senthamarai *et al*., 2016b
154.	*Tridemnum profundum* (Sluiter, 1909)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
155.	*Tridemnum pseudodiplosoma* Kott, 1962	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
156.	*Tridemnum savignii* (Herdman, 1886)	Meenakshi, 2003; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
157.	*Tridemnum spiculatum* Kott, 1962	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
158.	*Tridemnum spumosum* Kott, 2001	Abdul Jaffar Ali *et al*., 2010
159.	*Tridemnum strigosum* Kott, 1980	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
160.	*Tridemnum vermiforme* Kott, 2001	Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
I.b.	Suborder: Phlebobranchia Lahille, 1887	
G	Family: Perophoridae Giard, 1872	
XX	Genus: *Ecteinascidia* Herdman, 1880	
161.	*Ecteinascida bombayensis* Das, 1938	Das, 1938
162.	*Ecteinascida diaphanis* Sluiter, 1885	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003, Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2009; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
163.	*Ecteinascida diligens* Sluiter, 1900	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2009
164.	*Ecteinascida garstangi* Sluiter, 1898	Renganathan, 1984b; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
165.	*Ecteinascida imperfecta* Tokioka, 1950	Renganathan, 1986c

166.	*Ecteinascida krishnani* Renganathan & Krishnaswamy, 1985	Renganathan & Krishnaswamy, 1985; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
167.	*Ecteinascida nexa* Sluiter, 1904	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2009
168.	*Ecteinascida rubricollis* Sluiter, 1886	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2009
169.	*Ecteinascida sluiteri* Herdman, 1906	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi & Venugopal 2000; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
170.	*Ecteinascida styeloids* (Traustedt, 1882)	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2009
171.	*Ecteinascida thurstoni* Herdman, 1890	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
172.	*Ecteinascida venui* Meenakshi, 1997	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2000a; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
XXI	Genus: *Perophora* Wiegmann, 1835	
173.	*Perophora clavata* Kott, 1985	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
174.	*Perophora hutchisoni* Macdonald, 1859	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
175.	*Perophora listeri indica* Sebastian, 1955	Sebastian, 1955; Sebastian & Kurian, 1981; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
176.	*Perophora modificata* Kott, 1985	Meenakshi, 2003; Venkataraman *et al*., 2012; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
177.	*Perophora multiclathrata* (Sluiter, 1904)	Renganathan, 1983c; Renganathan,

		1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
H	Family: Ascidiidae Adams & Adams, 1858	
XXII	Genus: *Ascidia* Linnaeus, 1767	
178.	*Ascidia andamanensis* Oka, 1915	Oka, 1915
179.	*Ascidia caguayensis* Millar & Goodbody, 1974	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004
180.	*Ascidia challengeri* Herdman, 1882	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2005; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005
181.	*Ascidia conchilega* Muller, 1776	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015
182.	*Ascidia decepta* Kott, 1985	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2005
183.	*Ascidia dorsata* Meenakshi, 1999	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi & Renganathan, 1999b; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
184.	*Ascidia gemmata* Sluiter, 1895	Krishnan *et al*., 1989; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
185.	*Ascidia glabra* Hartmeyer, 1922	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2005
186.	*Ascidia indica* Meenakshi, 1997	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2005
187.	*Ascidia irregularis* Oka, 1915	Oka, 1915
188.	*Ascidia kesavanica* Meenakshi, 1997	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2005

189.	*Ascidia latesiphonica* Hartmeyer, 1922	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
190.	*Ascidia liberata* Sluiter, 1887	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
191.	*Ascidia samea* Oka, 1935	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
192.	*Ascidia sydneiensis* Stimpson, 1855	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi & Renganathan, 1998; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
193.	*Ascidia tuticoriensis* Meenakshi, 1997	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi, 2005
194.	*Ascidia virginea* Muller, 1776	Ananthan, 2014
195.	*Ascidia zara* Oka, 1935	Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
XXIII	Genus: *Ascidiella* Roule, 1884	
196.	*Ascidiella aspersa* (Mueller, 1776)	Das, 1945; Prakasam & Azariah, 1978; Nagabhushanam & Krishnamoorthy, 1992; Ananthan, 2014
XXIV	Genus: *Phallusia* Savigny, 1816	
197.	*Phallusia arabica* Savigny, 1816	Meenakshi, 2003; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Venkataraman *et al*., 2012; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a;

		Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
198.	*Phallusia barbarica* Kott, 1985	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
199.	*Phallusia julinea* Sluiter, 1915	Ananthan *et al*., 2015
200.	*Phallusia mammillata* (Cuvier, 1815)	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015
201.	*Phallusia nigra* (Savigny, 1816)	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 1998a; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
202.	*Phallusia polytrema* (Herdman, 1906)	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi & Renganathan, 1999a; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
I	Family: Corellidae Lahille, 1888	
I.a	Subfamily: Rhodosomatinae Seeliger, 1893	
XXV	Genus: *Rhodosoma* Ehrenberg, 1828	
203.	*Rhodosoma turcicum* (Savigny, 1816)	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi & Renganathan, 1997; Meenakshi 2003; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
II.	Order: Pleurogona Perrier, 1898	
II.a.	Suborder: Stolidobranchia Lahille, 1887	
J	Family: Styelidae Sluiter, 1895	

J.a	Subfamily: Botryllinae Adams & Adams, 1858	
XXVI	Genus: *Botrylloides* Milne-Edwards, 1841	
204.	*Botrylloides anceps* (Herdman, 1891)	Meenakshi, 2003; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2006c; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
205.	*Botrylloides chevalense* Herdman, 1906	Renganathan, 1984c; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
206.	*Botrylloides leachii* (Savigny, 1816)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Venkataraman *et al*., 2012; Ananthan *et al*., 2015
207.	*Botrylloides magnicoecum* Hartmeyer, 1912	Renganathan & Krishnaswamy, 1985; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
208.	*Botrylloides nigrum* (Herdman, 1886)	Abdul Jaffar Ali *et al*., 2015
209.	*Botrylloides perspicuus* (Herdman, 1886)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
210.	*Botrylloides pizoni* Brunetti & Mastrototaro, 2012	Ananthan *et al*., 2015
XXVII	Genus: *Botryllus* Gaertner, 1774	
211.	*Botryllus schlosseri* (Pallas,1766)	Meenakshi, 2003; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2006c; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali &

		Tamilselvi, 2016
212.	*Botryllus stewartensis* Brewin, 1958	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
213.	*Botryllus tuberatus* Ritter & Forsyth, 1917	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
J.b	Subfamily: Polyzoinae Hartmeyer, 1902	
XXVIII	Genus: *Eusynstyela* Michaelsen, 1904	
214.	*Eusynstyela tincta* (Van Name, 1902)	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 1998a; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
215.	*Eusynstyela latericius* (Sluiter, 1904)	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015
216.	*Eusynstyela misakiensis* (Watanabe &Tokioka,1972)	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015
XXIX	Genus: *Polyandrocarpa* Michaelsen, 1904	
217.	*Polyandrocarpa chendurensis* Renganathan & Krishnaswamy, 1985	Renganathan & Krishnaswamy, 1985; Renganathan, 1986c
218.	*Polyandrocarpa durbanensis* Millar, 1955	Renganathan, 1986c
XXX	Genus: *Polyzoa* Lesson, 1831	
219.	*Polyzoa violacea* (Oka, 1915)	Oka, 1915
XXXI	Genus: *Symplegma* Herdman, 1886	
220.	*Symplegma brakenhielmi* (Michaelsen, 1904)	Renganathan, 1985; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
221.	*Symplegma reptans* (Oka, 1927)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
222.	*Symplegma viride* Herdman, 1886	Sebastian, 1956; Sebastian & Kurian, 1981; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004;

		Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
223.	*Symplegma viride stolonica* Berrill, 1931	Sebastian, 1956; Sebastian & Kurian, 1981
J.c	Subfamily: Styelinae Herdman, 1881	
XXXII	Genus: *Cnemidocarpa* Huntsman, 1912	
224.	*Cnemidocarpa areolata* Heller, 1878	Das, 1945; Renganathan & Jones Nelson, 1985; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
225.	*Cnemidocarpa intestinata* Kott, 1985	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
XXXIII	Genus: *Polycarpa* Heller, 1877	
226.	*Polycarpa annandalei* Oka, 1915	Oka, 1915; Das, 1945
227.	*Polycarpa aurita* (Sluiter, 1890)	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2006a; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
228.	*Polycarpa cryptocarpa* (Sluiter, 1885)	Oka, 1915
229.	*Polycarpa glebosa* (Sluiter, 1904)	Oka, 1915; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
230.	*Polycarpa palkensis* Herdman, 1906	Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
231.	*Polycarpa papillata* (Sluiter, 1885)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
232.	*Polycarpa pigmentata* (Herdman, 1906)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Ananthan *et al*., 2015
233.	*Polycarpa maniensis* Meenakshi, 1997	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2006a
234.	*Polycarpa scatterata* Meenakshi, 1997	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2006a; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a

XXXIV	Genus: *Styela* Fleming, 1822	
235.	*Styela canopus* (Savigny, 1816)	Renganathan, 1981b; Krishnan *et al*., 1989; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
236.	*Styela plicata* (Lesueur, 1823)	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2007a; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
K	Family: Pyuridae Hartmeyer, 1908	
XXXV	Genus: *Boltenia* Van Name, 1945	
237.	*Boltenia transversaria* Sluiter, 1904	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
XXXVI	Genus:*Ctenyura* Van Name, 1918	
238.	*Ctenyura intermedia* Van Name, 1918	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
XXXVII	Genus: *Herdmania* Lahille, 1818	
239.	*Herdmania pallida* (Heller, 1878)	Oka, 1915; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015
240.	*Herdmania momus* (Savigny, 1816)	Oka, 1915; Das, 1936; Das, 1945; Sebastian, 1953; Sebastian & Kurian, 1981; Renganathan, 1983b; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Abdul

		Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
241.	*Herdmania papietensis* (Herdman, 1882)	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2016
XXXVIII	Genus: *Microcosmus* Heller, 1818	
242.	*Microcosmus curvus* Tokioka, 1954	Renganathan, 1983a; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
243.	*Microcosmus exasperatus* Heller, 1878	Renganathan, 1986c; Krishnan *et al*., 1989; Krishnan, 1992, Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
244.	*Microcosmus helleri* Herdman, 1881	Oka, 1915; Das 1945; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
245.	*Microcosmus propinquus* Herdman, 1882	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
246.	*Microcosmus pupa* (Savigny, 1816)	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2007b
247.	*Microcosmus stoloniferus* Kott, 1952	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
248.	*Microcosmus squamiger* Michaelsen, 1927	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi, 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2007b; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar

		Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
249.	*Microcosmus vulgaris* Heller, 1877	Abdul Jaffar Ali *et al*., 2015
XXXIX	Genus: *Pyura* Molina, 1782	
250.	*Pyura curvigona* Tokioka, 1950	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2016
251.	*Pyura ennurensis* (Das, 1940)	Das, 1940; Das, 1945; Sebastian, 1959; Sebastian & Kurian, 1981
252.	*Pyura isobella* Kott, 1985	Jhimli Mondal & Raghunathan, 2016
253.	*Pyura lanka* (Herdman, 1906)	Oka, 1915; Renganathan, 1984e; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
254.	*Pyura sacciformis* (Drasche, 1884*)*	Jhimli Mondal & Raghunathan, 2016
255.	*Pyura spinosa* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1834)	Meenakshi, 1996; Meenakshi, 1997; Meenakshi, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2006b
256.	*Pyura vittata* Stimpson, 1852	Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015
L	Family: Molgulidae, Lacaz-Duthiers, 1877	
XL	Genus: *Molgula* Forbes, 1848	
257.	*Molgula calvata* Sluiter, 1904	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
258.	*Molgula ficus* (Macdonald, 1859)	Renganathan, 1986b; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 2003; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016
259.	*Molgula mortensini* (Michaelsen, 1922)	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a
260.	*Molgula pyriformis* Herdman, 1881	Veena Shettigar & Kaladharan, 2010
261.	*Molgula sphaera* Kott, 1972	Meenakshi, 2003; Meenakshi &

		Senthamarai, 2013a
XLI	Genus: *Halocynthia* Verrill & Rathburn, 1879	
262.	*Halocynthia spinosa* Sluiter, 1905	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2016
263.	*Halocynthia dumosa* (Stimpson, 1855)	Jhimli Mondal *et al*., 2015

Oka, 1915 recorded two species - *Microcosmus mannarensis* Herdman, 1906 and *Herdmania ceylonica* (Herdman, 1906) belonging to Pyuridae, which is now synonymised with *Microcosmus helleri* Herdman, 1881 and *Herdmania pallida* (Heller, 1878) respectively. The genus *Monobotryllus* Oka, 1915 is a synonym of *Polyzoa* Lesson, 1831 and the species *Monobotryllus violaceus* is accepted as *Polyzoa violacea* (Oka, 1915). *Pyura momus* Savigny, 1816 reported by Das, 1936 is taken as *Herdmania momus* (Savigny, 1816). *Herdmania ennurensis* identified by Das, 1940 from Ennur coast is accepted as *Pyura ennurensis* (Das, 1940). *Styela areolata* Heller, 1878 (Styelidae) described by Das, 1945 is now *Cnemidocarpa areolata* (Heller, 1878). *Sidnyum pentatrema* Monniot F., 1972 and *Sidnyum indicum* Renganathan and Monniot F., 1984 (Polyclinidae) recorded by Renganathan, 1986c are accepted as *Aplidium pentatrema* (Monniot F., 1972) and *Aplidium indicum* (Renganathan and Monniot F., 1984). *Molgula martensii* Traustedt, 1855 (Molgulidae) recorded by Renganathan, 1986b, c is considered as *Molgula ficus* (Macdonald, 1859); *Didemnum psammathodes* (Didemnidae) reported by Renganathan, 1981a; Renganathan, 1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; 2003; 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; 2013a; Abdul Jaffar Ali & Tamilselvi, 2016 is *Didemnum psammatodes* (Sluiter, 1895); *Perophora formosana* Oka, 1931 (Perophoridae) recorded by Renganathan, 1983c; 1986c; Meenakshi, 1997; 2003; 2004; Senthamarai, 2004; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2005; 2013a is *Perophora multiclathrata* (Sluiter, 1904) and *Styela bicolor* Sluiter, 1887 (Styelidae) identified by Renganathan, 1981b; Meenakshi, 1997; 2004 is *Styela canopus* (Savigny, 1816). *Ascidia dorsalis* Monniot, 1987 identified and described from Tuticorin by Meenakshi, 1996; 1997 is *Ascidia dorsata* Meenakshi, 1999. *Ecteinascidia koumaci* Monniot, 1987 (Perophoridae) reported by Meenakshi, 1996; 1997; 2004; 2009 is synonymised as *Ecteinascidia rubricollis* Sluiter, 1886; *Phallusia caguayensis* Millar and Goodbody, 1974 (Ascidiidae) identified by Meenakshi, 1996; 1997; 2004 is *Ascidia caguayensis* (Millar and Goodbody, 1974); *Aplidium filiforme* Kott, 1992 (Polyclinidae) described by Meenakshi and Senthamarai, 2013b is *Aplidium mernooensis* (Brewin, 1956); *Eudistoma muscosum* Kott, 1990 (Polycitoridae) described by Senthamarai *et al*., 2015; Abdul Jaffar Ali and Tamilselvi, 2016 is *Eudistoma sluiteri* Hartmeyer, 1909. *Didemnum pseudodiplosoma* Kott, 1962, *Didemnum turritum* Kott, 1962, *Echinoclinum triangulum* Sluiter, 1909, *Lissoclinum voeltzkowi* Michaelsen, 1920, *Tridemnum aspiculatum* Kott, 1957 (Didemnidae), *Botrylloides perspicum* Herdman, 1886 recorded by Meenakshi 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a is *Tridemnum pseudodiplosoma* (Kott, 1962), *Didemnum membranaceum* Sluiter, 1909, *Lissoclinum triangulum* (Sluiter, 1909), *Lissoclinum timorense* (Sluiter, 1909), *Tridemnum profundum* (Sluiter, 1909), *Botrylloides*

perspicuus (Herdman, 1886), respectively and *Botryllus purpureus* (Oka, 1932) described by Meenakshi and Senthamarai, 2006c; Abdul Jaffar Ali and Tamilselvi, 2016 is now accepted as *Botrylloides anceps* (Herdman, 1891). *Botrylloides niger* Michaelsen, 1921; *Microcosmus sulcatus* Michaelsen, 1915 (Pyuridae) described by Abdul Jaffar Ali, 2015 from south west coast is now *Botrylloides nigrum* (Herdman, 1886) and *Microcosmus vulgaris* Heller 1877. *Polyclinum solum* Kott, 1992 (Polyclinidae), *Diplosoma macdonaldi* (Herdman, 1886), *Symplegma oceania* Tokioka, 1961 (Styelidae) recorded by Meenakshi 2003; Meenakshi & Senthamarai, 2013a and Abdul Jaffar Ali and Tamilselvi, 2016 is considered as synonyms of *Polyclinum psammiferum* Hartmeyer, 1911, *Diplosoma listerianum* (Milne-Edwards, 1841), *Symplegma brakenhielmi* (Michaelsen, 1904). From the Indian coast twelve families are recorded. The family Clavelinidae is represented by two genera - *Clavelina* Savigny, 1816 with six and *Pycnoclavella* Garstang, 1891 by one species. The genus *Rhopalaea* Philippi, 1843 of the family Diazonidae reports three species all from Andaman Sea. The genus *Aplidiopsis* Lahille, 1890, *Aplidium* Savigny, 1816, *Polyclinum* Savigny, 1816 and *Synoicum* Phipps, 1774 are reported from the family Polyclinidae with two, eighteen, thirteen and seven species respectively. *Distaplia nathensis* is the only species described under the genus *Distaplia* Della Valle, 1881of the family Holozoidae. The family Polycitoridae is represented by Genus *Cystodytes* Drasche, 1884 (one species); *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909 (twenty seven sp.); *Exostoma* Kott, 1990 (one sp.) and *Polycitor* Renier, 1804 (one sp.). Family Didemnidae indicates the greatest diversity with genus *Atriolum* Kott, 1983 showing (one); *Didemnum* Savigny, 1816 (thirty two); *Diplosoma* Macdonald, 1859 (six); *Leptoclinides* Bjerkan, 1905 (four); *Lissoclinum* Verrill, 1871 (nine); *Polysyncraton* Nott, 1892 (ten); *Tridemnum* Della Valle, 1881 (seventeen) species. The genus *Ecteinascidia* Herdman, 1880 and *Perophora* Wiegmann, 1835 of the family Perophoridae reports twelve and five species respectively. Family Ascidiidae is represented by the genus *Ascidia* Linnaeus, 1767 (eighteen sp.); *Ascidiella* Roule, 1884 (one sp.); *Phallusia* Savigny, 1816 (six sp.). *Rhodosoma turcicum* is the only species reported of the genus *Rhodosoma* Ehrenberg, 1828 of the subfamily Rhodosomatinae of family Corellidae. The family Styelidae is represented by the three subfamilies - Botryllinae, Polyzoinae and Styelinae. The genus *Botrylloides* Milne-Edwards, 1841 and *Botryllus* Gaertner, 1774 with seven and three species come under Botryllinae while Polyzoinae has genus *Eusynstyela* Michaelsen, 1904 (three sp.); *Polyandrocarpa* Michaelsen, 1904 (two sp.); *Polyzoa* Lesson, 1831 (one sp.); and *Symplegma* Herdman, 1886 (four sp.). Subfamily Styelinae reports the genus *Cnemidocarpa* Huntsman, 1912 (two sp.); *Polycarpa* Heller, 1877 (nine sp.) and *Styela* Fleming, 1822 (two sp.). The family Pyuridae has genus *Boltenia* Van Name, 1945, *Ctenyura* Van Name, 1918 each with one species and *Herdmania* Lahille, 1818 (three sp.); *Microcosmus* Heller, 1818 (eight sp.); *Pyura* Molina, 1782 (seven sp.). The genus *Molgula* Forbes, 1848 and *Halocynthia* Verrill and Rathburn, 1879 of the family Molgulidae are represented by five and two species. An analysis of the locality from which the ascidians included in the checklist

were collected indicates 47 species from Andaman group of Islands, 3 (Krusadai Is.), 13 (Rameswaram Is.), 7 (Vanthivu), 1 (Karachalli Is.), 2 (Shingle Is.), 56 (West Coast), 99 (Kanniyakumari), 37 (Tirunelveli), 155 (Tuticorin), 125 (Mandapam and Ramanathapuram), 18 (Madras) and 1 (Visakhapatnam). This study also shows that 141 species are reported from trawl discards, 123 (Intertidal rocky shores), 84 (Deep sea), 80 (fouling organisms of Pearl oyster cages), 35 (Mussel Bed), 37 (Coral reef), 33 (Harbor Installations), 49 (Hull of ships), 15 (marine aquarium tanks), 37 (Chank Beds), 15 (Mangrove). India is a tropical country which offers favorable features of environment like substratum and food for the growth and continuous breeding of ascidians. People in the Far East and Mediterranean have realized the low calorific and high protein value of ascidians and appreciated them as food. Their role in the ecosystem, as important components of marine fauna playing a significant role in the coastal economy and as bio indicators of water pollution is well known. Moreover their high breeding capacity and faster growth rate facilitates their culture in open sea farms. In the view of recent developments in pharmacology reporting compounds with antitumoral and antiviral activity from ascidians, this group really needs attention. In this context, the present taxonomic list of 263 species of sedentary ascidians of the Indian sea coast is a contribution to the knowledge on the biodiversity which is a prerequisite for taking up steps to conserve this group of animals. Authenticity of the research contributions on biological investigations involving immunology, microbiology, biotechnology and those on marine natural products lies on the accurate identification of the selected ascidian. The present information on the details of classification and scientific names with the author given in the checklist would be beneficial to future workers.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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