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ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR KRYPTOGAMENKUNDE

HERAUSGEGEBEN VON

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NOTES ON VENEZUELAN MARINE ALGAE – 1

On the occurrence of the Red Algal Genus *Taenioma* J.Ag.
in Venezuela

By E.K. Ganesan and A.J. Lemus

Departamento de Biología Marina, Instituto Oceanográfico,
Universidad de Oriente, Cumaná, Venezuela.

with one plate



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INTRODUCTION

This paper, as a beginning of our studies on the marine algae of Venezuela, records the occurrence of the red alga *Taenioma nanum* Kützinger (Delesseriaceae, Rhodophyta) in Venezuela.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIMENS

Plants minute about 2 mm in height, the basal creeping axes cylindrical (Figs. 4, 5) about 90-150 μ in diameter with 4 pericentral cells and no cortication; from the lower surface of these creeping axes arise long, non-septate rhizoids which may be either slender and uniformly thick (Fig. 4) 20-40 μ in diameter or swollen (Fig. 5) 50-130 μ in diameter, the ends of both types of which frequently end in simple or lobed disc with cytoplasm drawn right up to the tip; erect branches issuing out on the upper side of the basal creeping axis, branchlets flat with a narrow base and terminating usually into 2 long thick multicellular hairs (Fig. 1, 2) 20-40 μ thick, sometimes only one hair is well developed (Fig. 3); plants observed sterile.

Collected from Mangle Quemao, Bahía de Mochima intermingled with a *Bryopsis* sp and a *Cladophora* sp. growing on small rocks in shallow waters. A herbarium sheet with the No. 665 is also deposited in the herbarium of the departamento de Biología Marina, Instituto Oceanográfico, Universidad de Oriente, Cumaná, Venezuela.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Since the material studied by us had in the majority of cases only 2 hairs or sometimes only one and never with three, we have identified the species as *Taenioma nanum* Kützinger (= *Taenioma macrorum* Thuret). The genus *Taeni-*

oma J.Ag. appears to be widespread being known from Japan (Okamura, 1929-1932), Australia (May, 1965), India (Desikachary and Balakrishnan, 1957), some parts of the Caribbean (Taylor, 1960), Brazil (Joly, 1965) and Pacific Mexico (Dawson, 1962), but has not been reported so far from Venezuela. Although the two species *T. perpusillum* (J.Agardh) J. Agardh and *T. nanum* Kützing have always been distinguished from each other on the basis of the number of hairs present i.e. the former with three and the latter with two (see Taylor, 1960; Joly, 1965) it should be pointed out here Dawson's remarks (Dawson, 1962) on the Mexican material of *T. perpusillum*

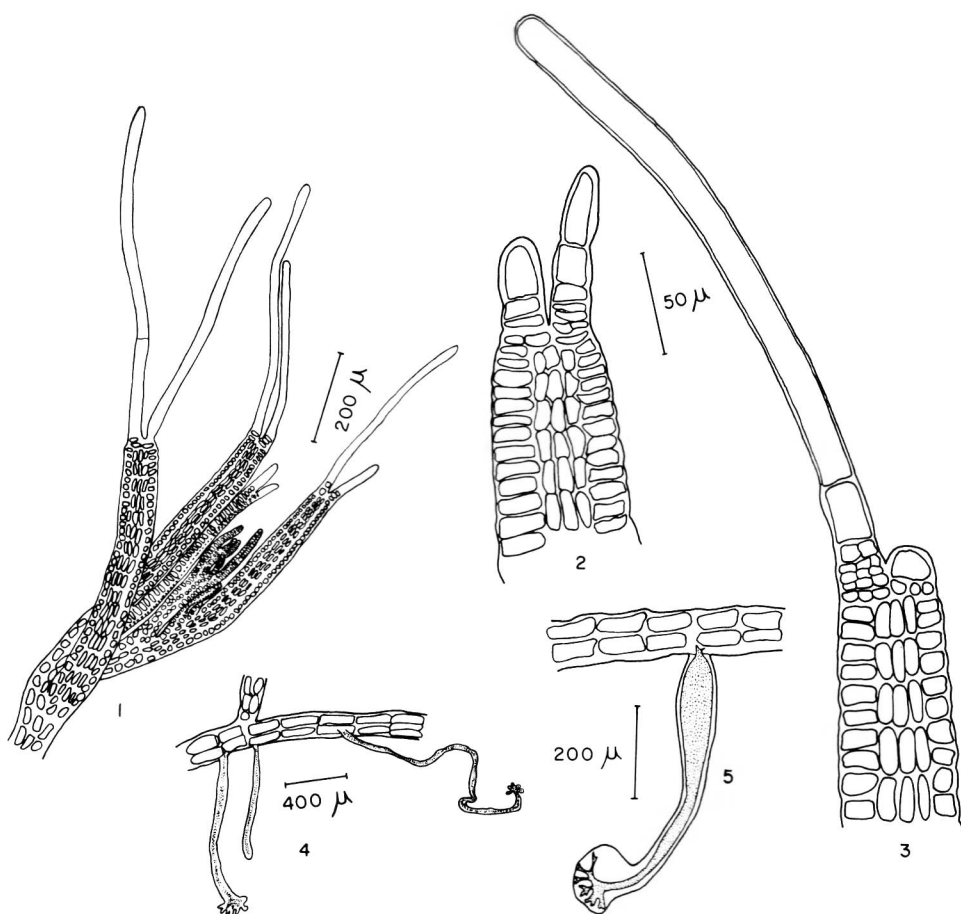


Fig. 1. Portion of an erect system showing the branchlets with 2 terminal hairs. Fig. 2. Apex of a branchlet with two young developing hairs. Fig. 3. Apex of another branchlet showing only one hair well developed. Figs. 4 & 5. Basal creeping axes with slender and swollen rhizoids respectively.

that in D. 10891 "one can find in almost every slide field of the material tips with one, two and three hairs, so that it is difficult to accept the number of terminal hairs as a basis for distinguishing these two species".

RESUMEN

En este trabajo se registra el alga marina *Taenioma nanum* Kützinger (Delesseriaceae, Rhodophyta) por primera vez para Venezuela y se hace un breve informe sobre la morfología de su talo. Se pudo apreciar que los ejemplares estudiados presentan solamente dos pelos terminales o en muy pocos casos uno, pero nunca tres.

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