

First record of *Cladonema radiatum* Dujardin, 1843 (Hydrozoa: Cladonematidae) from northern Arabian Sea, Pakistan

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Abstract

The hydrozoan species *Cladonema radiatum* Dujardin, 1843 was found in an aquarium kept with seawater from the intertidal zone at Buleji (Karachi, Pakistan). The medusae were first seen on June, 03, 2016 and kept under laboratory conditions. They survived 74 days at room temperature 35°C, water temperature 33°C, salinity of 35-37‰ and pH 7.5-7.9. The species *Cladonema radiatum* is reported as a new record for Pakistan.

Keywords: first record; *Cladonema radiatum*; cladonematidae

1. Introduction

Hydroids and hydromedusae (phylum Cnidaria, class Hydrozoa) are one of the poorly known groups of marine animals from the coast of Pakistan^[1] (Haque, 1977). Despite the poor knowledge, there are few data published about hydroids from Pakistani waters. We know 46 species of hydrozoans from Pakistan^[2]; from these 5 are anthoathecates, 11 leptoathecates, and 30 siphonophores. Such studies include: Haque^[1], Ahmed *et al.*^[3], Haq *et al.*^[4], Javed and Mustaqim^[5], Ahmed and Hameed^[6], Ali- Khan and Shehnaz^[7, 8], Moazzam and Moazzam^[9] and Gul and Gravili^[10].

The Cladonematidae are a family of anthoathecate hydrozoans which contains 3 genera (*Cladonema*, *Eleutheria* and *Staurocladia*). Members of the family with known life cycle, have stolonial hydroid colonies with their medusa being benthic and crawling over the substrate^[11]. The genus *Cladonema* Dujardin, 1843 is composed of 6 species^[12]. Medusae of the genus are capable of swimming in the water column, but mostly stay attached to surfaces^[13, 11].

2- Materials and Methods:

Sea water from Buleji coast (tide 1.13m) was collected on 06th March, 2016, and used to fill an aquarium (kept with aeration) in the laboratory. On 16th June, 2016 the first hydromedusae were seen swimming in the aquarium. The hydromedusae were picked and placed in a separate aquarium (also with aeration) for additional observations. On 25th July, 2016 several hydropolyps were found in the same aquarium. Young hydromedusae were kept in 250 ml glass jar. The sizes of the young hydromedusae were ~0.3 mm when released but they reach to ~0.7 mm bell height in mid-August 2016. The specimens were observed under a binocular microscope (Olympus BX51) with 10x/21 magnification. The medusa survived in aquarium for 74 days at room temperature (~35°C); aquarium water temperature was around 33°C, salinity ranged from 35-37‰, and pH was 7.5-7.9 during the course of the study.

2.2. Material Examined

13 specimens examined.

Size. - ~0.3 mm--~0.7.

2.3. Systematics:

Phylum: Cnidaria

Class: Hydrozoa

Subclass: Hydroidolina

Order: Anthoathecata

Suborder: Capitata

Family: Cladonematidae

Cladonema radiatum Dujardin, 1843

2.4. Habitat

Pelagic, often near shore.

3. Key to the genera

1. Medusa tentacles branched more than once.....*Cladonema*
2. Medusa tentacles branched once.....2
3. 2a- Medusa tentacles with a single nematocyst knob.....*Eleutheria*
4. 2b- Medusa tentacles with several nematocyst knobs.....*Staurocladia*

4. Description

C. radiatum medusa had a bell-shaped umbrella that reached 0.7 mm in diameter. The velum is quite broad. The whitish manubrium is spindle-shaped, somewhat shorter than the bell cavity and bears the gonads. The club-shaped hydranth has two whorls of tentacles: one oral whorl, below the mouth, consisting of four to five capitate tentacles (ending in bulbs); and a lower (aboral) whorl, near the base of the hydranth, consisting of few small filiform (threadlike) tentacles. On the margin of the umbrella, there are nine elongated bulbs from where branched tentacles stretch out. At the base of each tentacle there is a redocellus. Under each one of these bulbs, 1 to 4 stalked buttons are used to attach on the substratum. The root-arm medusa frequently settles on seaweeds (Fig.1). Belonging to planktonic species, it has a hopping way of swimming, and then it suddenly folds its tentacles and let itself fall.

The polyps were about 0.6 mm in height and having four capitate tentacles surrounding the hypostome in the aquarium wall. After 6 days we were able to see buds in the hydropolyps, and these buds were released as young

hydromedusae. After polyp detection, 16 young hydromedusae were count in the aquarium.

5. Discussion

C. radiatum, differs from the other *Cladonema* species in the lack of filiform tentacles at the base of the polyp [14]. The

authors consulted Dr. Peter Schuchert, Natural History Museum of Geneva, according to him *C. radiatum* polyps have filiform tentacles. However, they might not always develop depending on cultivating conditions. The differences in morphology between the existing records of *Cladonema* species are shown in Table 1.

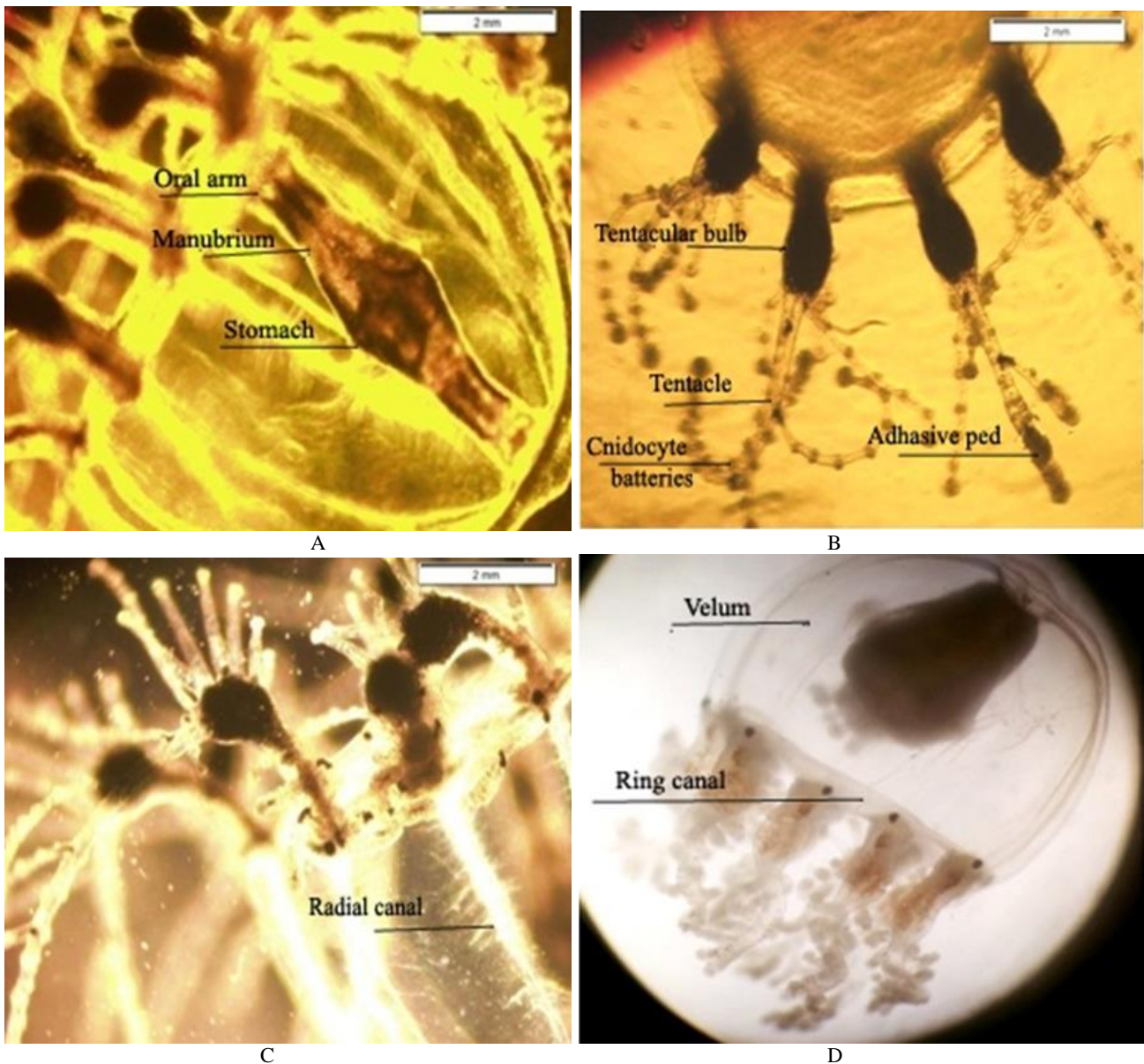


Fig 1: *Cladonema radiatum* Dujardin, 1843. A-D, Growth stages and morphological features.

Cladonema radiatum Dujardin, 1843 is a species considered to be native to coastal European waters where it can be found from Norway to the Mediterranean and Black Seas [11] (Schuchert, 2006). Also it has been reported from different parts of the world as Bermuda, Florida, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Belize, and Brazil [15, 16, 17, 18]. The species was considered non-indigenous, and introduced populations of

medusae have been reported from Padilla Bay (Washington), Oahu (Hawaii), and Wellington (New Zealand) [19]. It is possible that this wide-ranging hydrozoan comprises a complex of cryptic species [11] but further data should be considered on detailed morphological and molecular aspects to discuss it.

Table 1. Comparison of morphological differences of the species of *Cladonema* [20] (after Rees, 1982).

S. No.	Species	Polyp filiform tentacles	Number of radial canals	Branching of radial canal	Branching of regular tentacles
1	<i>C. radiatum</i> Dujardin, 1843	Present	7-11	Yes	Much branched
2	<i>C. californicum</i> Hyman, 1947	Present	Usually 9	No	Bifurcated
3	<i>C. myersi</i> Rees, 1949	Absent	5-7	No (?)	Much branched
4	<i>C. pacificum</i> Naumov, 1955	Not known	9	No	Much branched
5	<i>C. uchidai</i> Hirai, 1958	Absent	8-9	Yes	Much branched

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7. References

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