

Research Article

Rediscovery of *Westiellopsis interrupta* Kanthamma (Nostocales: Hapalosiphonaceae) from the South West Coast of India and a new addition to the marine cyanobacterial flora

Arun T. Ram^{1*} and Tessy Paul P.²

¹Research & PG Department of Botany, M.E.S. Asmabi College, P.Vemballur, Kodungallur, Thrissur District, Kerala – 680 671, India

²Department of Botany, Christ College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Thrissur District, Kerala- 680 125, India

*Corresponding Author's E-mail: aruntram@gmail.com

(Received: November 12, 2021; Revised: April 15, 2022; Accepted: May 17, 2022)

ABSTRACT

Westiellopsis interrupta Kanthamma 1972 was rediscovered from the mangrove ecosystem of the South West Coast of India after a lapse of 48 years. The taxon was first discovered from the paddy field soils. Its rediscovery is documented by a specimen recently collected from the mangrove ecosystem at Alappuzha, extending its distribution within the Indian subcontinent. Currently, all the valid species of *Westiellopsis* originated from India. None of the species was reported from the marine habitat. Therefore, the occurrence of the species, *W. interrupta* Kanthamma 1972 regarded new addition to the marine cyanobacterial flora. Detailed taxonomic descriptions, distribution, photomicrographs, habitat and ecology of *W. interrupta* are provided for ease of understanding .

Key words: *Westiellopsis*, taxonomy, distribution, mangrove ecosystem, Kerala

