

ECBALLOCYSTIS FRITSCHII IYENGAR—A NEW REPORT TO KERALA, INDIA

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The *Ecballocystis fritschii* Iyengar is recorded for the first time from Kerala, India.

Keywords : *Ecballocystis Fritschii*; Epiphyte; Lithophyte.

The Genus *Ecballocystis* was established by Bohlin in 1897 with the type species *E. pulvinata* (Iyengar, 1932). Fritsch (1917) added two more species, *E. ramosa* and *E. simplex*. Iyengar (1932) described all the above species and established two more new species *E. fritschii* and *E. Courtallensis*. He also described two new varieties var. *typica* and var. *pulleneyensis* of *E. fritschii*, two

new forms. *F. typica* and *F. jogensis* of *E. courtallensis* and three new varieties var. *typica*, var. *minor* and var. *diffluens* of *E. pulvinata*. Iyengar collected all these taxa from Karnataka and Tamilnadu States in South India. Sankaran (1980) made a detailed investigation on *E. fritschii* collected from Annamaly hills of Tamilnadu. The genus is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

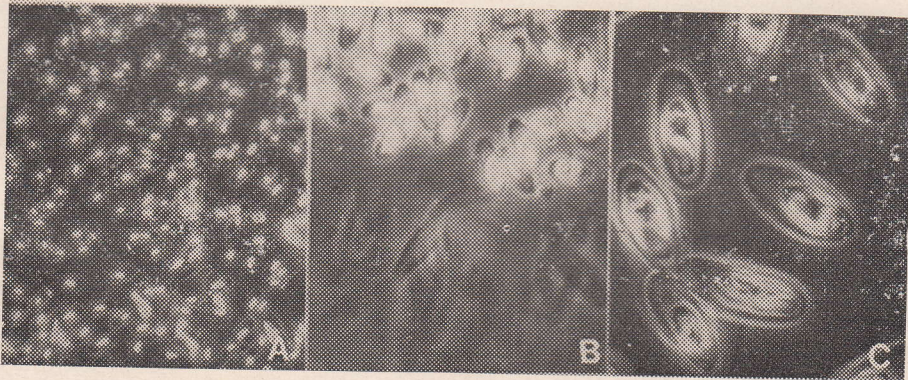


Fig. 1. A-C. *Ecballocystis fritschii* Iyengar

A. Part of the colony showing cells arranged in a dendroid manner. X 242 B. Cells with old mother cell wall. X 550 C. Enlarged view of cells with chloroplast. X 1210.

The authors collected a species of *Ecballocystis*, near Athirampally waterfalls of Sholagar river in Kerala during December 1988. It was identified as *E. fritschii*. The present species along with the genus is recorded for the first time from Kerala.

Systematic Account

Ecballocystis fritschii Iyengar Fig. 1 A-C

Iyengar, 1932, P. 200-201, Fig. 4

Thallus mucilaginous, strong, irregularly shaped light green balls, reaching 2.5 cm in diameter, attached to rocks and aquatic vegetation. Cells elliptic oblong with broadly rounded ends, arranged in a dendroid manner, nucleus central, suspended in a vacuole by radiating cytoplasmic

strands, chloroplasts many, discoid and parietal. All living cells mostly located towards the periphery of the thallus. Cells 14-20.5 um long and 4.7-7 um broad. Old mother cell walls funnel shaped and constricted below. Habitat: Lithophytic or epiphytic in Sholayar river. C. No. K-50.

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