

GENUS *LAGYNION* PASCHER FROM KERALA

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The present communication deals with the systematic account of 3 species of *Lagynion* Pascher Collected for first time from Kerala.

Keywords : Algae, Systematic account, *Lagynion*.

During the extensive studies on fresh water algae of Kerala, the authors came across 3 species of the interesting genus *Lagynion* a member of Chrysophyceae, hitherto unknown from the state. They were collected from a paddy field at Meenad, Quilon district in September 1988. The water in this paddy field is typically soft and slightly acidic to neutral (pH 6-7). They were found growing as epiphytic on filamentous green algae like *Oedogonium* and *Rhizoclonium*. Due to the lack of literature the authors are not able to mention its distribution in India. Perhaps, it may be the first report of the 2 species viz. *Lagynion Macrotrachelum* (Stokes) Pascher and *L. scherffellii* Pascher from India. The third species *L. varans* was established by Ramanathan (1966). For almost a quarter century, this algae has not

been known from any part of the country. Here it is the second report of this species from India.

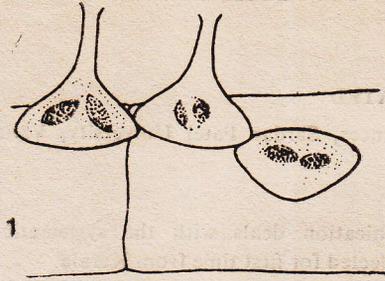
Systematic account

Lagynion macrotrachelum (Stokes) Pascher Fig. 1.

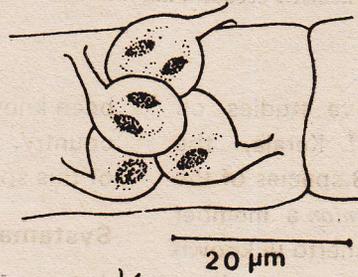
Body of the lorica triangular to funnel shaped, flattened against the substrate, extending into a long neck which flares at the aperture. Protoplast with two discoid golden chromatophores. Lorica 12-18.8 μm wide; 16-17 μm long. The present plant agrees well with the one described by Prescott (1962).

Lagynion scherffellii Pascher Fig. 2.

Lorica depressed ovate, flattened against the substrate, extending into a short neck with diverging sides. Protoplast with 2 golden brown chromatophores. Lorica 10-12 μm wide, 16-18 μm long. Our plant

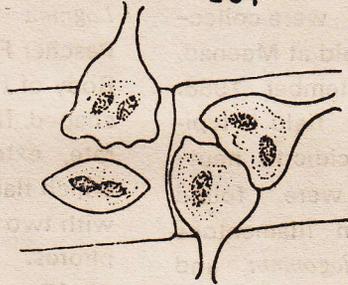


1



2

20 μm



3

1. *Lagynion macrotrachelum* (Stokes) Pascher; 2. *L. scherffellii* Pascher;
3. *L. varians* Ramanathan

agrees well with the one described by Prescott (1962).

Lagynion varians Ramanathan Fig. 3.

Lorica varied in shape from triangular to some what pyramidal. In end view it was elliptical with corners some what pointed. The base of the lorica was slightly curved and of ten produced into short lobes. The protoplast contained one or two discoid golden brown chromatophores.

Lorica 10–12 μm wide; 14–15 μm long. The present plant agrees with the type described by Ramanathan (1966) except its longer lorica.

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References

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Ramanathan K R 1966, *Phykos* 5 50