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Safia Khanam

Centre of Excellence in Marine Biology, University of Karachi and Marine Reference Collection and Resource Centre, University of Karachi, Karachi-75270 Pakistan.

Quddusi B Kazmi

Centre of Excellence in Marine Biology, University of Karachi and Marine Reference Collection and Resource Centre, University of Karachi, Karachi -75270 Pakistan.

A new record of *Dendrodoris krusensternii* (Gray, 1850) (Nudibranchia, Dendrodorididae) from the Karachi coast, Pakistan (Northern Arabian Sea)

Safia Khanam and Quddusi B Kazmi

Abstract

A new record of the nudibranch collected from a rocky shore, Sonari, Baluchistan, Pakistan was identified as *Dendrodoris krusensternii* (Gray, 1850). It was recovered from the low tidal zone.

Keywords: New record, Nudibranchs, rocky shore

1. Introduction

The genus *Dendrodoris* contains a large number of species. From Pakistan five species have been reported (Kazmi *et al.*, 1996) [1]. But *Dendrodoris krusensternii* (Gray, 1850) is a new record for the area and addition to the list; this is being briefly described in the present note. A *Dendrodoris* collected (Date 1973-10-25 urn:catalog:cas:IZ:81931) from Karachi area, Goth Jafar is deposited in the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco collected by Franz B. Steiner. It is an undetermined species and identified by Terry Gosliner up to generic level only. It seemed like reasonable to compare in some way the two specimens—the present one and the undetermined one, both from Karachi, to rule out the possibilities of the two being similar and/or additional collection.

This was found that the Goth Jafars' specimen was different from the present fresh specimen of *Dendrodoris krusensternii*, and the former may belong to the already reported dendrodorids by Kazmi *et al.* (1996) [1].

D. krusensternii (Gray, 1850) is a widespread common species throughout the Indo-West Pacific. It is a moderately rare species that has been found in protected to highly exposed rocky habitats from 1-110 m., sometimes seen among sea grasses and seaweeds. It has been given a number of different names such as *Dendrodoris gemmacea* (Alder & Hancock, 1864). Other names which are probably synonyms include *Doridopsis clavulata* Alder & Hancock, 1864, *Doridopsis mammosa* Abraham, 1877 and *Dendrodoris arenosa* Risbec, 1930. Another name, *Dendrodoris gunnamatta* Allan, 1932 probably applies to a darker colour form found in coastal New South Wales in which the blue spots are very small or absent. It was until recently known as *Dendrodoris denisoni* (Angas, 1864) and underwent a name change to *Dendrodoris krusensternii* (Gray, 1850) (Valdés & Fahey, 2006) [2].

2. Material and Methods

One specimen, photographed, collected from Sonari, Baluchistan, Pakistan about 65.4 km from Karachi at low tide. Tide 0.3 m. Date: 8th March, 2016. Size TL: (contracted after preservation) 30 mm

2.1 Description: (Fig.2)

The notum of this species is covered with fleshy tubercles of varying sizes except in 3-4 paired areas on either side of the mid-line where it is smooth. Tubercles vary in size, shape. Each tubercle has a stalk and a swollen apex bearing many fig-like papillae. The rhinophores are thick and clublike while the gills are large, tripinnate and feathery.

2.2 Visible particularities/Colour

Background colour beige. Brown and white tubercles with vivid blue spots in between the tubercles. Stalks purplish. Gills with dark brown axes and numerous little white dots on the outer face. Lamellated rhinophores with brown colouration and white tips. Colour of foot and underside of the foot not noted in fresh condition lacking any markings in preserved specimen.

Correspondence:

Safia Khanam

Centre of Excellence in Marine Biology, University of Karachi and Marine Reference Collection and Resource Centre, University of Karachi, Pakistan.



Fig 1: collecting site



Fig 2: *Dendrodoris krusensternii* (Gray, 1850) Dorsal and underside

2.3 Note

The present specimen is of medium length. The species may reach 80-90 mm in length.

3. Acknowledgment

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4. References

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