

## Stoechospermum Kützing, 1843

DICTYOTALES, DICTYOTACEAE

Thalli erect arising from a rhizoidal holdfast, up to 40 cm long, branches 6-22 mm broad, branching dichotomous, in the same plane, without a midrib. Growth initiated from a short row of apical cells in an inrolled margin. Thallus with a single layer of small cortical cells overlying 7-8 layers of larger medullary cells, not regularly arranged in rows in transverse section. Sporangia forming in longitudinal marginal sori, dispersed among paraphyses (hairs), pyriform, 65-115 µm high and 15-60 µm across with one stalk cell. Tanzania to India and Ceylon.

- Guiry, M.D. in Guiry, M.D. & Guiry, G.M. 2021. *AlgaeBase*.

### Species reported from Sri Lanka

*Stoechospermum marginatum* (C. Agardh) Kützing, 1843 [Harv 1857: no. 53; G. Murray, 1887; Durairatnam, 1961: 33-34, pl. vii; Mageswaran & Sivasubramaniam, 1984 a & b]

- Silva et al, 1996.

### Description of species

#### *Stoechospermum polypodioides* (J.V.Lamouroux) J. Agardh, 1848

Synonym: *Stoechospermum marginatum* (C. Agardh) Kützing 1843

**Morphology** Thalli tufted, reaching a height of 12 cm or more. Bases narrowed, attached to the substrate by rhizoids. Erect fronds flat, widening upwards, spatulate, branching repeated, dichotomous, the growing tip inrolled. Numerous fine proliferous, decumbent branches are produced from the base. Fronds bear marginal bands of hairs on one surface with scattered sporangia amongst the hairs. Brown in colour.

**Anatomy** Thallus consists of a single row of small cortical cells on both surfaces, with a medulla composed of large cells, the largest at the centre. The sporangia set amidst sterile hairs have single-celled stalks.

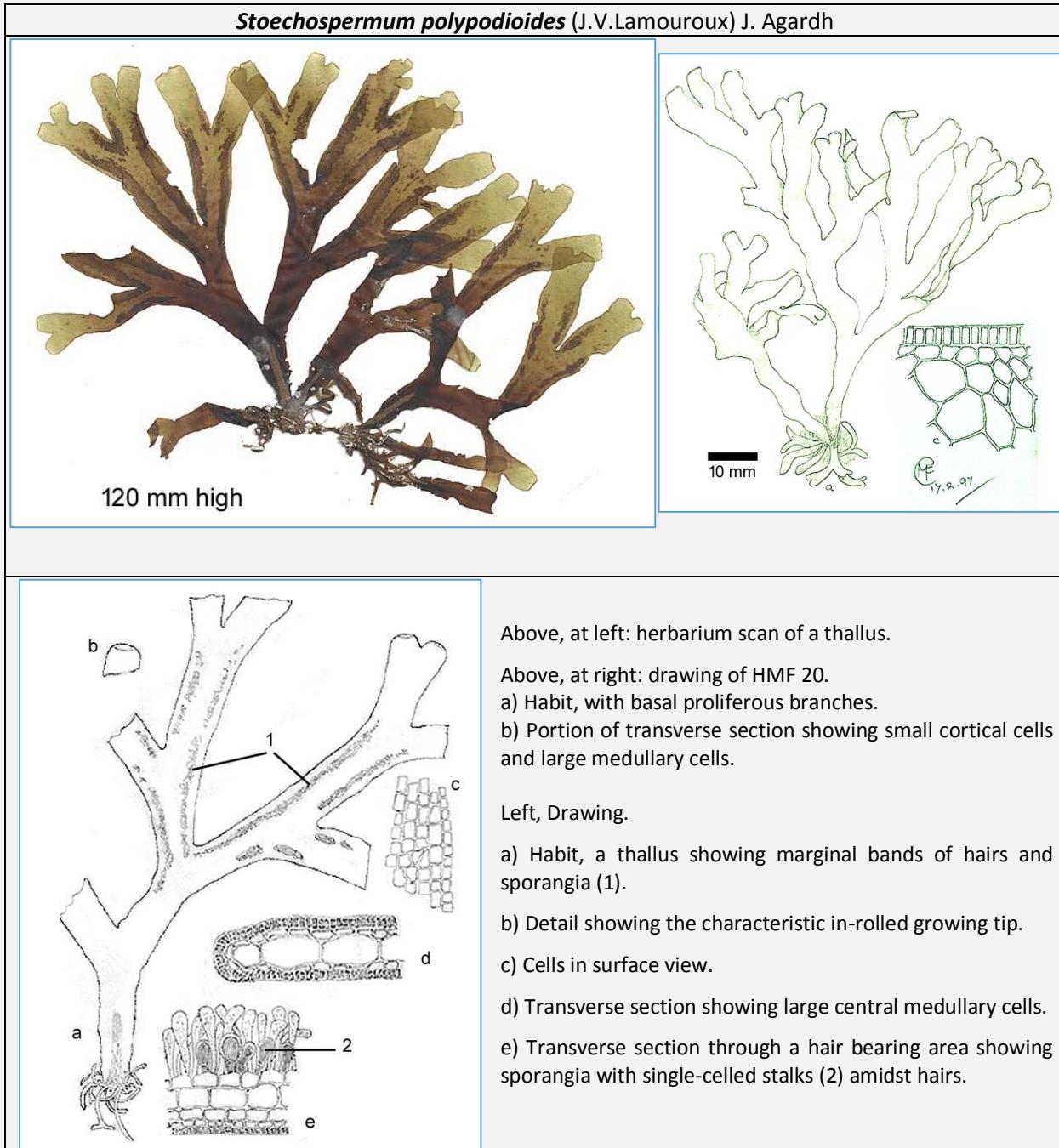
**Ecology** Epilithic, subtidal, gregarious, growing in small or wide expanses.

**Discussion** Common on the in-shore Colombo reefs where there is plenty of water movement. Colpetty, Mandaitivu (Durairatnam, 1961).

**Material examined** HMF 020, 4.2.1996, Mount Lavinia - First reef #2, epilithic on back slope and whole reef plateau, 2-4 m, dark brown, in patches 1-2 m across, tetrasporangia immature, with epiphytic coralline growths (? *Melobesia*) on narrow basal portions. HMF 328, 16.12.2001, Wellawatte, Kinross first reef - 2-3 m, epilithic on highest terrace, brown, yellow apices and edges in-situ, gregarious in small patches, sterile, the basal parts supporting epiphytic *Ceramium*. HMF 404, 2.2.2003, Wellawatte, Kinross first reef - 2 m, epilithic, reef slope, 1st terrace, dark brown with yellowish apices, gregarious, dense growth from just beyond the reef crest over much of the first terrace and the reef slope, fertile. HMF 531, 10.1.2010, Wellawatte, Kinross 1st Reef - 3 m, epilithic, highest terrace, scattered mats <1 m across, 10-12 cm tall, fertile.

## References

Coppejans et al, 2009: 132 fig. 115.  
 Durairatnam, 1961: 33-34.



## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Durairatnam, M., 1961. Contribution to the Study of the Marine Algae of Ceylon. *Bulletin No. 10, Fisheries Research Station*, Ceylon.

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