

Acanthophora J. V. Lamouroux, 1813

CERAMIALES, RHODOMELACEAE

Thallus erect, occasionally decumbent, arising from a discoid stoloniferous or rhizomatous prostrate system. Axes terete (in N.W.A.); branching alternate, irregular or spiral, all branches with short spirally arranged spines; apices projecting or in shallow pits, with a few branched trichoblasts. Structure uniaxial, with 5 pericentral cells per segment, surrounded by a pseudoparenchymatous medulla and cortex. Spermatangia on stalked plate-like trichoblasts. Cystocarps sessile, each subtended by spine-like branchlets. Tetrasporangia in short lateral spinose branchlets (becoming stichidial in some species), several per segment.

- M.D. Guiry in Guiry, M.D. & Guiry, G.M. 2021. *AlgaeBase*. World-wide electronic publication, National University of Ireland, Galway. <http://www.algaebase.org>; searched on 19 July 2021.

Species reported from Sri Lanka

Acanthophora dendroides Harvey, 1855 [Harvey, 1857 No. 10; GM 1887: 30]

Acanthophora nayadiformis (Delile) Papenfuss, 1968 [Dur 1961:71 Pl. XXXII as *A. delilei*]

Acanthophora spicifera (Vahl) Børgesen, 1910 [Børgesen 1936: 94; Dur 1961: 71, Pl. XIX,

Figs. 2-6]

- Silva et al, 1996

Acanthophora spicifera (Vahl) Børgesen, 1910 [Coppejans et al, 2009:214, Fig.182.]

Description of species

Acanthophora spicifera (M. Vahl) Børgesen, 1910

Morphology Reddish or brownish, branching erect fronds, 5 - 10 cm tall, in intertidal habitats. The thallus consists of clustered, terete, erect axes, 1 - 1.5 - 2 mm diameter, branching irregularly from all round the axes. The branches narrower than the main axes, all directed upwards. They bear short (up to 4 mm) radially arranged lateral branches that give off fleshy, triangular, spine-like ultimate branchlets; trichoblasts are present at the apices.

Anatomy The axes have a central filament 100 µm in diameter surrounded by five pericentral cells. The cortex consists of cells that are progressively smaller outwards, with an epithelial layer of small, round, pigmented cells 25 µm in diameter that are elongated in the long axis in surface view.

Ecology Epilithic, intertidal, on reef flat or tide pools of middle and inner zones (Barberyne Reef, Beruwela), drying out at low tide or not; or low intertidal rocky shore (Mount Lavinia).

Coppejans et al, 2009 note that "... 'Loose-lying' specimens in the lagoon of Chilaw are ball-like, up to 30 cm in diameter ..."; found in lagoons and in low intertidal pools.

Discussion Three species have been reported from Sri Lanka, two of them described by Durairatnam (1961) who distinguishes between them on the basis of the presence or absence of spiny branchlets on the main axis. Perrone et al (2006) go into more detail about the differences between species. The two collections described here appear to be the same species and are referred to *A. spicifera*. (See the paper by Perrone et al, 2006 and the images in Lewmanomont & Ogawa, 1995 and Coppejans et al, 2009.)

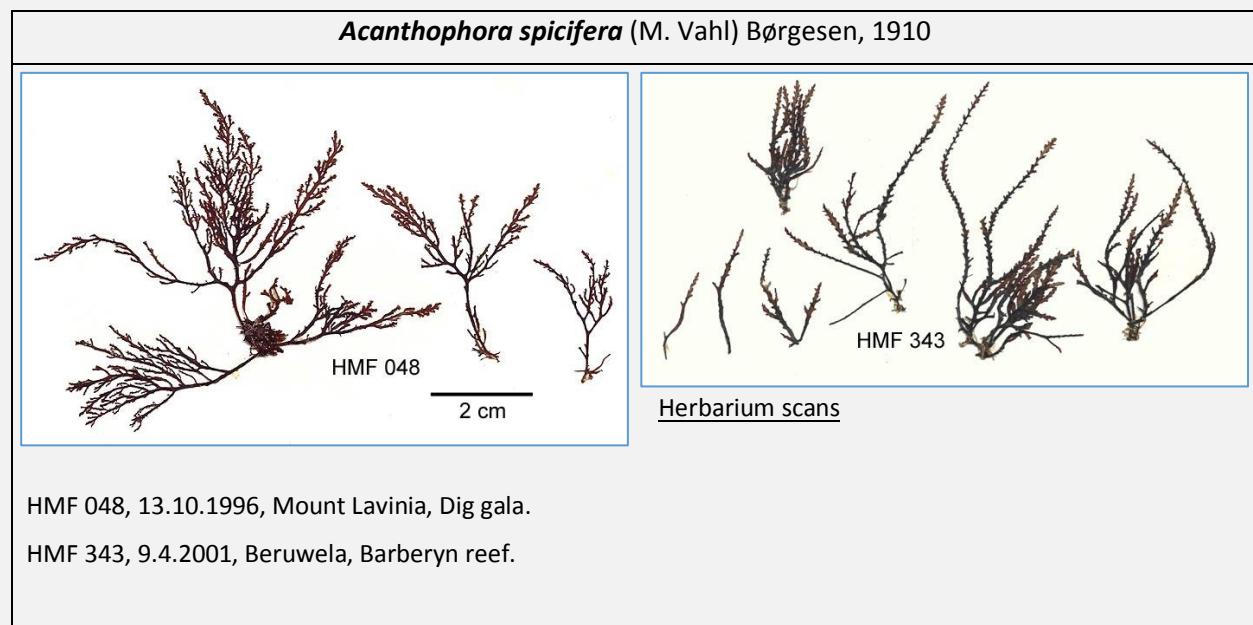
Material examined

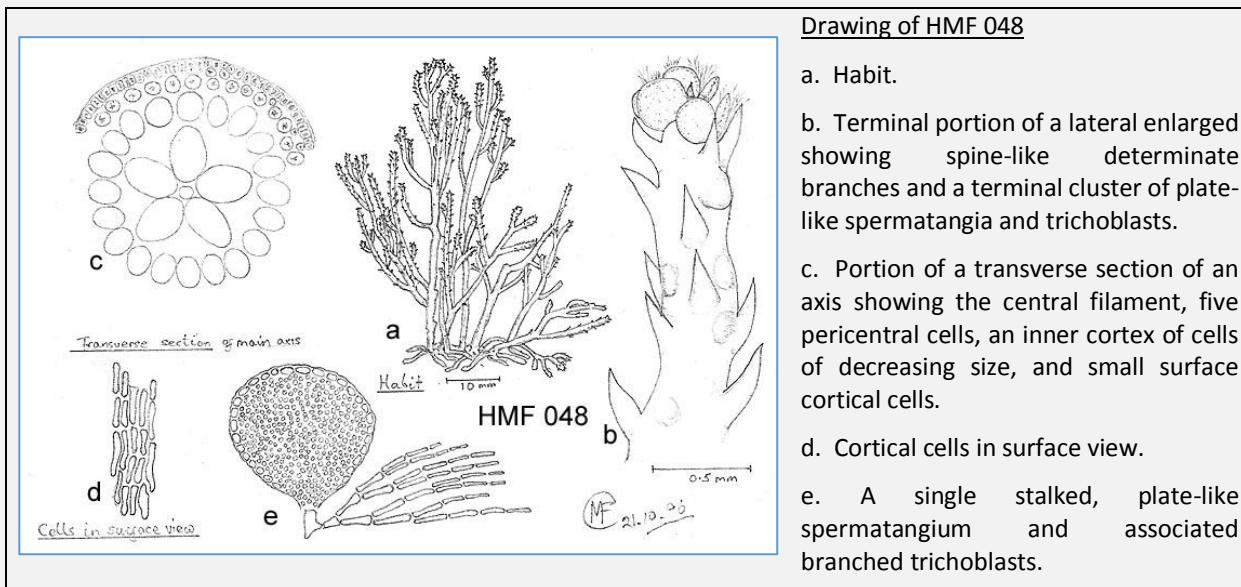
HMF 048, 13.10.1996, Mount Lavinia - Dig gala, intertidal, epilithic. Reddish brown, erect, 80 mm tall. Clusters of discoid spermatangia on trichoblasts. Seen for the first time in this location.

HMF 343, 9.4.2001, Beruwela, Barberyn reef, epilithic on reef flat and tide pools.

References

Coppejans et al, 2009:214, Fig. 182.
 Durairatnam, 1961:71, Pl. XXXII (*A. delilei*), Pl. XIX, Figs. 2-6.
 Lewmanomont & Ogawa, 1995: 90.
 Perrone et al. 2006.
 Silva et al, 1996.





BIBLIOGRAPHY

Coppejans, E., Leliaert, F., Dargent, O., Gunasekara, R. and De Clerck, O. 2009. *Sri Lankan Seaweeds, Methodologies and field guide to the dominant species*, ABC Taxa, Vol. 9, Belgian Development Corporation.

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

Guiry, M.D. in Guiry, M.D. & Guiry, G.M. 2021. AlgaeBase. World-wide electronic publication, National University of Ireland, Galway. <http://www.algaebase.org>; searched on 02 March 2021.

Lewmanomont, K. and Ogawa, H., 1995. *Common Seaweeds and Seagrasses of Thailand*. Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University.

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