

New records of marine benthic algae for the Mozambican coast, collected at Inhaca Island

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Thirteen taxa of Rhodophyta, Phaeophyta and Chlorophyta are reported for the first time from Inhaca Island: *Gelidiopsis repens*, *Solieria robusta*, *Tricleocarpa cylindrica*, *Dictyota humifusa*, *Padina boergesenii*, *Sargassum crassifolium*, *Stoechospermum polypodioides*, *Caulerpa microphysa*, *Cladophora catenata*, *C. coelothrix*, *C. vagabunda*, *Rhizoclonium*

africanum, *Udotea indica*. All of these species are new records for Mozambique, *Cladophora catenata* is recorded for the first time in the Indian Ocean. The seaweed flora of Inhaca Island now totals 224 taxa, including 73 genera of Rhodophyta (120 species), 15 genera of Phaeophyta (28 species) and 28 genera of Chlorophyta (35 species, some of which have several varieties).

Introduction

The seaweed flora of the major part of the Mozambican coast remains largely unstudied, except for Isaac's (1957) research around Xai-Xai and some sporadic citations of a few species (Taylor 1967, Wollaston 1984). Inhaca Island and the neighbouring Peninsula, close to the border with South Africa, on the contrary, have been relatively well studied by Isaac (1956, 1958, 1959) and Isaac and Chamberlain (1958), with additions by Silva (1959) and Saenger (1971, 1973). A first checklist for the island and the neighbouring mainland was published by Pocock (1958). Critchley *et al.* (1994) carried out a biogeographic analysis of the island's seaweed flora. More recently Critchley *et al.* (1997) produced an updated list of the seaweeds from Inhaca Island, totalling 205 taxa, of which 73 genera belong to the Rhodophyta (118 taxa), 13 genera to the Phaeophyta (23 taxa) and 24 genera belong to the Chlorophyta (64 taxa). Ten taxa are only identified to genus level, four tentatively (as cf) to species level, 184 to species level and 10 to varietal level.

Material and Methods

The algae reported in this paper were collected by the first author during a short stay in the Inhaca Marine Biology Station [for a map of Inhaca Island, see Isaac (1956: 162, figure 1)] from 18–22/12/2000, during neap tides. The main collecting site was Cabo Inhaca, where the intertidal zone is composed of a series of sandstone ridges and rock pools, at about neap low tide level, and a larger pool (shallow lagoon) behind a fringing rocky reef. The 'reef' and the lagoon were almost inaccessible because of the neap tide combined with a rough sea.

The specimens were pressed and dried as herbarium

specimens and were deposited in the herbarium of the Ghent University (GENT). Due to practical constraints no duplicates could be made for the herbarium of the field station that mostly contains Pocock specimens. The taxonomy and nomenclature of this list largely follows Silva *et al.* (1996). HEC stands for Herbarium Eric Coppejans.

Results

Rhodophyceae

O. Nemaliales

Tricleocarpa fragilis (Linnaeus) Huisman et Townsend, 1993: 100, table 2

References: Jaasund [1976: 67, figure 135 as *Galaxaura oblongata* (Ellis et Solander) Lamouroux], Littler and Littler (2000: 66, figures p. 67).

Type locality: West Indies.

Description: Thallus erect, 4cm high, pink; composed of cylindrical axes, 1–1.5mm in diameter, branching dichotomously in different planes, interdichotomies 0.5–1cm long, not strongly calcified but brittle.

Voucher: HEC 14277, 18.xii.2000: Cabo Inhaca, epilithic on vertical walls of a 1m deep rock pool, just above neap low tide level.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: Aldabra Islands, Andaman Islands, Australia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laccadive Islands, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique (this paper),

Nicobar Islands, Pakistan, Réunion, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania.

O. Gigartinales

Solieria robusta (Greville) Kylin 1932: 18

Reference: Jaasund (1976: 93, figure 188, as *Soliera*).

Type locality: probably near Fremantle, Western Australia.

Description: Thallus erect, 12cm long, composed of cylindrical axes, 1.5–2mm in diameter, pinkish red. Side branches in all directions, gradually tapering towards the acute apices, but also towards their base (resulting in spindle-shaped branches).

Voucher: HEC 14244, 18.xii.2000: Cabo Inhaca, epilithic in shallow lagoon behind the fringing reef, -0.5m.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: Australia, India, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique (this paper), Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Yemen.

Remarks: Pocock (1958: 26) mentions a drift specimen of ‘? *Soliera* sp.’ (P 11201) from Saco (Inhaca Island). We only noticed a single specimen *in situ*, but numerous specimens were washed ashore.

O. Rhodymeniales

Gelidiopsis repens (Kützting) Weber-van Bosse 1928: 425–426

References: Jaasund [1976: 89, figure 178 as *G. acrocarpa* (Harvey) Schmitz], Payri *et al.* (2000: 232, figure p. 233).

Type locality: Wagap, New Caledonia.

Description: Thalli gregarious, intricately branched, rather rigid but flexible; short stolonoid parts bearing densely set erect axes, up to 2.5cm high, cylindrical (0.5mm in diameter) and unbranched in the basal part, becoming compressed (1mm broad) and dichotomously to subpalmately divided in the upper parts.

Voucher: HEC 14268, 18/12/2000: Cabo Inhaca, horizontal substratum in a shallow rock pool just above neap low tide level, under an overhanging rock, shaded.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laccadive Islands, Mauritius, Mozambique (this paper), Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Tanzania.

Remarks: The specimens were growing mixed with *G. variabilis* (J. Agardh) Schmitz. The latter is taller (up to 11cm high), less rigid, branching is rare, irregular or (sub)opposite (forming subapical crosses); apical, palmately divided, markedly compressed parts are missing; axes mostly cylindrical or slightly compressed in apical parts, 0.5mm in diameter.

Phaeophyta

O. Dictyotales

Dictyota humifusa Hörnig, Schnetter et Coppejans in Hörnig *et al.* 1992: 57–58, figure 6.

Reference: Littler and Littler (2000: 264, figures p. 265).

Type locality: Punta Chengue, Santa Marta, Colombia.

Description: Thalli gregarious, prostrate, well attached to the substratum, up to 2cm in length, but most specimens only 1–1.5cm long; straps 2–3mm wide, interdichotomies 2–4mm long, branching angle wide, apices rounded; creamy blue iridescence. Straps very thin and flimsy, usually only attaining a thickness of 80µm; medulla and cortex strictly unilayered. Sterile.

Vouchers: HEC 14305, 20.xii.2000: Punta Tôrres, on algal turf on dead coral heads in the tide channel, -2m; HEC 14307, 21.xii.2000: Barreira Vermelha, reef, on and between algal turf on dead coral heads, -4m.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique (this paper), South Africa (Farrell *et al.* 1993), Tanzania.

Remarks: *Dictyota humifusa* is a common species along the East African coast.

Padina boergesenii Allender et Kraft, 1983: 87–88, figures 6C, H, I, 7C, D.

References: De Clerck and Coppejans (1996: 230, figures 48, 50–51), Littler and Littler (2000: 272, figures p. 273).

Type locality: Virgin Islands.

Description: Thallus up to 6cm high, flabellate, composed of several lobes with an inrolled margin; attached in a small stupose rhizoidal base; slightly to moderately calcified on the superior surface, colour brown; thallus composed of 2–3 layers of cells in the mid-regions, up to 4 cells thick near the base; hair rows present on both sides of the thallus, but more conspicuous on the lower side of the thallus. Tetrasporangia in concentric lines, above each hair row, mainly (but not exclusively) developed on the superior surface, not covered by an indusium.

Vouchers: HEC 14245, 18.xii.2000: Cabo Inhaca, on coral fragments on sand in shallow lagoon behind the ‘fringing reef’, -0.5m at neap tide; HEC 14284, 18/12/2000: Cabo Inhaca, covering most of the bottom of the 1m deep rock pool just above neap low water.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: India, Kenya, Mozambique (this paper), Oman (Wynne and Jupp 1998), Pakistan, Tanzania, Yemen (Schils 2002).

Remarks: In the past *Padina boergesenii* has often been reported as *P. gymnospora* (Kützting) Sonder, from which it

differs in the number of cell layers (2–3 versus 6–8, respectively) and the absence of an indusium covering the tetrasporangial sori. For a complete discussion we refer to Allender and Kraft (1983).

Stoechospermum polypodioides (Lamouroux) J. Agardh, 1848: 100

References: Jaasund (1976: 45, figure 92 as *S. marginatum* (Ag.) Kütz.), De Clerck and Coppejans (1997: 337, figure 3), Coppejans *et al.* (1997: 80, figure p. 81).

Type locality: Uncertain *fide* De Clerck and Coppejans (1997: 338).

Description: Plants attached by stolonoid holdfasts, gregarious, erect, up to 15cm long, rather stiff, composed of a short cylindrical stipe and flat, dichotomous straps, 5–10mm wide, without midrib but with inrolled apices. Most specimens have grazed (or eroded) apices; some are fertile, having the characteristic, marginal, dark sporangial sori.

Voucher: HEC 14247, 18.xii.2000: Cabo Inhaca, epilithic, on rocks and oysters at the wave exposed side of the fringing reef, between neap and spring low tide, rather abundant.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: Australia, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique (this paper), Oman, Pakistan, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Yemen.

Remarks: This species was abundant at the collecting site, but drifting specimens were also observed in front of the Biological Station and at Ponta Tôrres.

O. Fucales

Sargassum crassifolium J. Agardh, 1848: 326–327

Reference: Seagrief (1980: 24, pl. 6).

Syntype localities: according to Silva *et al.* (1996: 665): Cape of Good Hope, South Africa; New Ireland (Bismarck Archipelago); New Zealand.

Description: Small specimens, 8cm high, very stiff plants; double crested and dentate upper margin of the short, broad and fleshy leaves. The material is fertile with spiny receptacles. Aerial vesicles absent.

Voucher: HEC 14296, 18.xii.2000: Cabo Inhaca, epilithic on vertical wall of a 30cm deep rock pool just above neap low tide level.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: Andaman Islands, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Mozambique (this paper), Pakistan, Qatar, South Africa, Sri Lanka.

Remarks: According to Stegenga (pers. comm.) Agardh (1848) does not mention 'Caput Bonae Spei' as type locality, but 'ad Africam meridionalem (Bory!)' which includes the coast from Cape of Good Hope up to Durban (or even further).

Chlorophyta

O. Cladophorales

Cladophora catenata (Linnaeus) Kützling, 1843: 271

References: Kützling (1854: 14, table 65, figure 1, as *C. fuliginosa* Kützling), Van den Hoek (1982: 59–60, figures 41–68), Van den Hoek and Chihara (2000: 45–49, figure 18), Littler and Littler (2000: 320).

Type locality: Bahamas.

Description: Thallus dark green, forming a compact cushion, 3–7cm in diameter, composed of entangled, stiff, often incurved axes. Branching irregular, one lateral per cell, frequently with delayed formation of cross walls. Some axes decumbent and attached to the substrate by terminal haptera on the apical, rhizoid-like cells. Apical cells cylindrical with rounded tips, often curved, 260–350µm in diameter, l/w ratio 18–37. Cells of the ultimate branches 330–430µm in diameter, l/w ratio 5–6. Cells of the main axes cylindrical, 330–465µm in diameter, l/w ratio 4–6. Decumbent axes composed of 4–8 cells, 150–300µm in diameter (gradually decreasing towards the distal ends).

Voucher: HEC 14262: 18.xii.2000, Cabo Inhaca, horizontal substrate in shallow rock pools just above neap low tide level.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: Mozambique (this paper).

Remarks: The species may be confused with *Cladophoropsis* species, due to the similarities in growth form, the thick, stiff filaments and the delayed cross wall formation in young laterals. Distinction between *Cladophora* and *Cladophoropsis* is primarily based on the relative presence or absence of cross walls in laterals. This character, however, shows considerable variation within the genus *Cladophora* where cross wall formation may be postponed in some branches, but not as distinctly as in *Cladophoropsis* (Van den Hoek 1982: 33).

Cladophora catenata possibly has a very disjunct distribution in tropical seas; it has been recorded (often as *C. fuliginosa*) in the Caribbean Sea (Littler and Littler 2000: 320), southern Japan and Taiwan (Yoshida 1998: 61), Philippines (Silva *et al.* 1987: 97), the Caroline Islands and Queensland, Australia (Phillips 1997: 12). This is the first record of *C. catenata* in the Indian Ocean.

Cladophora coelothrix Kützling, 1843: 272

References: Børgesen (1939: 72–73, figure 15), Sartoni (1992: 300, figure 5B), Van den Hoek (1963: 40–43, pls 5–8 (pro parte)), Van den Hoek (1982: 47–52, figures 11–29), Van den Hoek and Womersley (1984: 190–192, figures 60C, 61C, D), Van den Hoek and Chihara (2000: 36–40, figure 14).

Type locality: Golfo di Genova, Italy.

Description: Thallus partly forming a prostrate, spongy cushion, fixing sand and sediments, partly erect; the ascendent

and erect branches very supple, light green. Branching acropetally to irregularly organised in the apical regions, irregularly branched lower down. Lateral branches arising singly (occasionally in twos) just below a cross wall, with the new wall remaining steeply inclined to the parent cell; angle of ramification 25°–50°. Many cells (especially in the basal parts) producing a descending rhizoid from their basal poles. Apical cells cylindrical with rounded tips, 65–95µm in diameter, l/w ratio 5–12; ultimate branches 75–110µm in diameter, l/w ratio 5–12; main axis up to 120µm in diameter, l/w ratio 5–8.

Voucher: HEC 14252 a, b, c: 18.xii.2000, Cabo Inhaca, sand-covered bottom of a rock pool, just above neap low water level (a, b, c: slightly different growth forms).

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: Australia, Chagos Archipelago, Christmas Island, India, Iran, Kuwait, Mozambique (this paper), Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa.

Remarks: *Cladophora coelothrix* is closely related to *C. socialis* Kützinger, from which it differs by being about twice as thick (Van den Hoek 1963, 1982, Van den Hoek and Chihara 2000). Both species have a similar geographical distribution, being pantropical species with subtropical to warm-temperate boundaries in the northern and southern hemispheres (Van den Hoek and Chihara 2000: 27, 37). Along the East African coast *C. socialis* has been recorded from Somalia (Sartoni 1986: 361), Kenya (Isaac 1967: 76 as *C. patentiramea* (Montagne) Kützinger f. *longiarticulata* Reinbold in Weber-van Bosse), Tanzania (Jaasund 1976: 9 as *C. patentiramea* f. *longiarticulata*) and South Africa (Bolton and Stegenga 1987: 168).

Cladophora vagabunda (Linnaeus) Van den Hoek, 1963: 144

References: Van den Hoek (1963: 144–148, pls 33, 36, 37, 39; 1982: 137–138, figures 264–294), Van den Hoek and Womersley (1984: 202–203, figs 64E, 65G), Sartoni (1992: 304, figures 6C, D, E), Van den Hoek and Chihara (2000: 180–194, figures 76–79).

Lectotype locality: Selsey, Sussex, England.

Description: Thallus light green, forming lax, densely branched tufts, 0.5cm to 3cm tall, composed of pseudodichotomously branched main axes ending in acropetally organized, falcate branch-systems. Growth in the terminal branch-system apical; intercalary growth starts at some distance from the apex. Each new cell cuts off one branch at its apical pole; at increasing distance from the apex a cell may give rise to a 2nd and a 3rd branch. Branches are inserted at the apical cell pole by an oblique wall cutting them off from the parent cell; the position of the wall becomes nearly horizontal as a branch grows older, thus forming pseudodichotomies. Angle of ramification ranging from 55°–90° in the main axes to 30°–45° in the terminal branch-system. Apical cells cylindrical with rounded tips, diameter 50–70 (90)µm, l/w ratio 2.7–7. Cells of the ultimate branch-systems

75–135µm in diameter, l/w ratio 2–5.5. Cells of the main axes 175–215µm in diameter, l/w ratio 5–9.

Voucher: HEC 14265: 18.xii.2000, Cabo Inhaca, epiphytic on *Gelidiella acerosa* (Forsskål) J. Feldmann et G. Hamel, in a shallow pool just above neap low tide level.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: Australia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laccadive Islands, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique (this paper), Nicobar Islands, Pakistan, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Yemen.

Remark: *Cladophora vagabunda* is a common, cosmopolitan species.

Rhizoclonium africanum Kützinger, 1853: 21, pl. 67: figure II

References: Egerod (1974: 135–136, figures 10–12), Sartoni (1986: 361, figure 3C; 1992: 305, fig.7A), Payri *et al.* (2000: 70, figure p. 71).

Type locality: 'Senegambien' (Senegal or Gambia).

Description: Filaments gregarious, forming beard or rope-like structures up to 10cm long, with a woolly appearance, light green, unbranched, 65–80 (85)µm in diameter, cells 1.5–2.5 (3) times as long as wide, with a thick, stratified wall 12–15µm thick. Basal rhizoidal cell up to 250µm long, frequently bent and bearing a perpendicularly placed lateral branch. Intercalary knee-like joints, making an angle of 90°, common along the filaments, at the level of larger (inflated), darker cells.

Voucher: HEC 14300, 19.xii.2000: in front of the Marine Laboratory, epilithic in the supralittoral fringe, above the *Bostrychia*-zone, in rock crevices, under overhanging trees, locally abundant.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, Indonesia, Kenya, Laccadive Islands, Madagascar, Mozambique (this paper), Nicobar Islands, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania (Coppejans *et al.* 2000: 63), Thailand.

Remarks: Possibly overlooked previously because of its presence above high tide level. Pocock (1958: 24) mentions a *Chaetomorpha* sp. from Punta Punduini (P 12009) described as 'very fine, at top of Bostrychietum on rocks at the point' that could correspond to this taxon.

O. Bryopsidales

Caulerpa microphysa (Weber-van Bosse) J. Feldmann, 1955: 430

References: Egerod (1974: 143, figures 42, 43), Coppejans and Meinesz (1988: 190, figures 15–17), Coppejans and Prud'homme van Reine (1992: 692), Littler and Littler (2000: 364, figures p. 365).

Type locality: Ilot Barkly, Mauritius.

Description: Only a few small plants were collected. Stolons 0.5–1mm in diameter, sparsely branched, bearing erect assimilators, up to 1cm high, dark (bluish) green; rachis cylindrical, naked at the base, bearing irregularly placed, spherical ramuli with a diameter of 2mm, supported by a short, unstricted stalk. Plastid associated with a large pyrenoid.

Voucher: HEC 14274, 18.xii.2000: Cabo Inhaca, in algal turf, on vertical wall of a 1m deep rock pool, just above neap low tide level.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: India, Indonesia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique (this paper), Nicobar Islands, Seychelles, Thailand.

Remarks: *Caulerpa microphysa* is morphologically rather similar to *Caulerpa lentillifera* J. Agardh, mentioned from Inhaca, but this species differs in the pedicels of the vesiculate branchlets being constricted and the chloroplasts being devoid of pyrenoids. Moreover, in well-developed specimens of *C. lentillifera* the ramuli are placed in longitudinal rows.

Codium cf. ovale Zanardini, 1878: 37

References: Coppejans *et al.* (1995: 82, figure 18), Littler and Littler (2000: 352, figures p. 353).

Type locality: Sorong, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

Description: Thalli gregarious (5 plants), in different growth stages, erect, pyriform but slightly laterally compressed, the largest specimens 1.75cm high and 2cm wide, solid, covered by thin hairs, resulting in a halo when submerged, dark green. Utricles 1 440–1 600µm long, (sub-) cylindrical, slightly tapering towards the base, 250–300µm in diameter at the widest part, provided with (scars of) hairs.

Voucher: HEC 14277, 18.xii.2000: Cabo Inhaca, epilithic on the vertical wall of a 1m deep rock pool, just above neap low tide level.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: Indonesia, Mozambique (this paper), Seychelles, Sri Lanka.

Remarks: *C. ovale* is generally described as growing singly, being oval and compressed (Schmidt 1923: 37, Coppejans *et al.* 1995: 82) or spherical (Littler and Littler: 2000: 352). The length of the utricles is generally smaller: 600–900µm (Schmidt: l. c.), (470–)635(–985)µm (Coppejans *et al.*: l. c.), 900–1 200µm (Littler and Littler: l. c.). We therefore tentatively identify our specimens as *C. ovale* as this is the species to which it most closely corresponds.

Udotea indica A. Gepp et E. Gepp, 1911: 121–122, pl. II: figs 13, 14; pl. VI: figs 52, 53

References: Børgesen (1930: 160–161, figure 5, pl. I: fig-

ures 2, 3), Sartoni (1979: 292, figures 8b, 9B), Moorjani and Simpson (1988: 16, pl. 28), Leliaert *et al.* (2001: 455, figures 4, 11, 12).

Type locality: Karachi, Pakistan.

Description: Plants up to 4cm high, erect, slightly calcified, very stiff. Attachment by a small tuft of rhizoids; stipe simple, 7–10mm long, 1mm in diameter; blade cuneate to rounded, margin entire, lobed or lacerate, surface conspicuously zonate and markedly radially striated, dark to whitish green because of the calcification. Superficial blade filaments bearing occasional series of unilateral, short, truncate, usually simple or bilobate papillae, borne on the peripheral side of the filament.

Voucher: HEC 14254, 18.xii.2000: Cabo Inhaca, epilithic in shallow rock pools just above neap low tide level.

Distribution in the Indian Ocean: India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique (this paper), Oman (Wynne and Jupp 1998), Pakistan, Somalia, Tanzania (unpublished), Yemen.

Remarks: Growing as isolated plants, but in open populations; rather frequent in the area. Morphologically *U. indica* is very similar to *U. palmetta* Decaisne, but the blade filaments of the latter bear acute conical, spine-like, simple or bi to trifid appendages. The description of *U. palmetta* in Jaasund (1976: 29) mentioning 'the surface filaments...bear unilateral rows of papillous appendages' indicates that he describes *U. indica*. Reference specimens identified as *U. palmetta* from Kenya and Tanzania appear to be *U. indica*. The presence of *U. palmetta* along the E-African coast therefore still has to be confirmed. *Udotea orientalis* is also mentioned from Inhaca Island; this species is epipsammic, is less rigid and has blade filaments without any appendages.

Discussion

Four major papers on seaweeds from Inhaca Island were published previously (Isaac 1956, Isaac and Chamberlain 1958, Pocock 1958, Critchley *et al.* 1997). It therefore is quite surprising that within the very limited collection (67 taxa) made by the first author 13 taxa appear to be new records for the island. Most of the specimens were collected in the intertidal zone, at neap low tide and with rough sea, not allowing collecting in deeper areas. It therefore can be expected that more new species for the island are present at Cabo Inhaca at lower tide levels.

Other areas, such as the reef at Ponta Tôrres and at Bareira Vermelha, on the other hand, seem to have a highly depauperate seaweed flora when compared with previous collections. Isaac and Pocock collected several taxa of macroalgae from those biotopes. During a 1 hour SCUBA-dive on each of these reefs, on 20 and 21.xii.2000 respectively, only algal turf was observed, reaching 5mm in height. It was mostly composed of red turf algae, tiny specimens of *Hypnea* sp. and *Lobophora variegata* (Lamouroux)

Womersley ex Oliveira. Locally, small patches (a few cm²) of the prostrate and bluish iridescent *Dictyota humifusa* were eye-catching. Large groups of herbivorous fish were continuously grazing the turf algae. At Ponta Törres drift specimens of mainly *Sargassum* spp., *Padina* sp. and *Stoechospermum polypodioides* were found between the coral heads, amongst open populations of the seagrass *Halophila ovalis* (R. Brown) Hooker. Subtidal seagrass vegetations (*Cymodocea* spp., *Syringodium isoetifolium* (Ascherson) Dandy and *Thalassodendron ciliatum* Forsskål, are poor in epiphytes, except for the small encrusting corallines on the leaves. An exception is a *Codium* sp. that is extremely abundant on stems of *Thalassodendron* along the west coast (in front of the Marine Laboratory) with thalli up to 30cm in diameter. Locally they form large quantities of beach cast material (e.g. close to the pier of the village).

It is unclear why Critchley *et al.*'s (1997) checklist of seaweeds from Inhaca Island does not include some species mentioned from the island by Pocock (1958) or Isaac (1956) such as the Chlorophyta *Chamaedoris delphinii* (Hariot) Feldmann et Børgesen, *Valonia macrophysa* Kützing, *V. aegagropila* C. Agardh, *Dictyosphaeria versluysii* Weber-van Bosse, *Codium arabicum* Kützing and the Phaeophyceae *Chnoospora minima* (Hering) Papenfuss. When including these taxa and our new records, the seaweed flora of Inhaca Island now totals 224 taxa, including 73 genera of Rhodophyta (120 species), 15 genera of Phaeophyta (28 species) and 28 genera of Chlorophyta (35 species, some of which have several varieties).

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