



Additions to the epiphytic macroalgae flora of Bahia and Brazil¹

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Abstract

The northeastern coast of Brazil is one of the richest and most diverse areas for the marine algae, but there are still many gaps in our knowledge about the flora, especially in terms of deep-water taxa and small epiphytic macroalgae. Studies of the epiphytic algae on *Acetabularia crenulata* from the coastal waters along the beaches of Barra Grande and Penha, Vera Cruz, Itaparica Island, Bahia State, Brazil, revealed the occurrence of the genus *Chroodactylon* and the species *Chroodactylon ornatum* in the South Atlantic Ocean. The red algae *Chondria collinsiana* and green algae *Phaeophila dendroides* expanded its geographical distribution to the northeastern coast of Brazil; the green algae *Ulva clathrata* and *U. flexuosa* subsp. *paradoxa* are new records for the coast of Bahia. The vegetative and reproductive structures are described in detail and a comparison with similar species is provided.

Introduction

The northeastern coast of Brazil is one of the richest and most diverse areas for the marine algae (Horta *et al.* 2001), but there are still many gaps in our knowledge about the flora, especially in terms of deep-water taxa and small epiphytic macroalgae (Oliveira 2002). According to West *et al.* (2007), studies of small marine algae often result in new records and new species.

Specific studies of epiphytic macroalgae along the coast of Bahia State have been rare and limited to the works of Oliveira *et al.* (1979), who studied epiphytes found on *Sargassum* Agardh (1820: 1) floating in the Brazilian Current between the states of Bahia and Espírito Santo, Guimarães *et al.* (1981) and Teixeira *et al.* (1985), who listed the epiphytes of deep-water macroalgae on the continental platform in the northeastern and southeastern regions of Brazil, Alves & Moura (2005), who reported 31 taxa of epiphytic macroalgae, including filamentous cyanobacteria, on five species of *Codium* Stackhouse (1797: xvi, xxiv) in Itaparica Island, Bahia, and more recently Bandeira-Pedrosa *et al.* (2008), who inventoried the epiphytes of *Halimeda* Lamouroux (1812: 186) along the northeastern coast of Brazil (including Bahia State).

The present study reports new occurrences of small epiphytic macroalgae for the coast of Bahia and Brazil and provides detailed descriptions of the morphology and reproduction of the species. This study, which is part of a larger study of the epiphytes of *Acetabularia crenulata* Lamouroux (1816: 249) contributes to the knowledge of the epiphytic marine flora of Bahia State and Brazil.