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## TWO SPECIES OF GENUS: COLEPS (C. HIRTUS & C. ELONGATUS) FOUND IN RESERVOIR AT DHANEGOAN, OSMANABAD (MS), INDIA.

#### Pawar Sharda Balaji

M.Sc., Ph.D (Zoology).

**Abstract:**-Coleps is barrel –shaped free-living ciliated protozoa which is belong to the Family Colepidae (Ehrenberg 1838), which represented the following characters- "Brosse is as three inconspicuous short files of dikinetids, calcium carbonate plates in cortex and often with anterior or posterior spines". In the present investigation, author has identified and re-described a species of genus Coleps. *C. hirtus & C. elongates*. It is first time reported from Osmanabad region.

Keywords: Ciliated protozoa, Coleps, C. hirtus, C. elongates.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The body of the genus Coleps is barrel shaped and covered in regularly arranged prominent ectoplasmic plates. These plates are composed of amorphous calcium carbonate. There are about 20 longitudinal rows of pellicular plates. The present study include the identification and re-description of two species if genus Coleps namely *C. hirtus* and *C. elogatus*.

#### MATERIALAND METHODS:

The water samples were collected from reservoir at Dhanegoan, Osmanabad (MS). The observations on ciliates were done after their movements were slowed down with methyl cellulose. For fixation Schaudinn's fluid was permanent preparation was made by Dry Sliver Impregnation (Klein, 1928, 1958) and tungsto phosphoric for Haematoxylene method.

#### RESULTAND DISCUSSION:

#### **Description of the Genus:**

The genus Coleps is first reported by Nitzsch in 1827 and is a member of Class Prostomatea (Schewiakoff, 1896). Now previously it is considered as a member of class Kinetofragminophora, and Order Prorodontida. The members of this Class Prostomatea, somatic monokinetids are usual with radial transverse ribbon, slightly convergent postciliary ribbon and anteriorly directed kinetodesmal fibril that does not overlap those of other kinetids. Cytostome is apical to subapical, oral dikinetid postciliary ribbon that extend laterally from each dikinetid, Overlapping one another and in some species forming a circular microtubular band that supports the walls of a shallow pre-cytostomal cavity with rhabdos like cytopharyngesl apparatus, stomatogenesis ventral with migration of cytostome to apical position following cytokinesis.

According to J. O. Corliss the individuals of Order Prorodontida possess an apical or slightly subapical and ventral cytostome which permanently open to the surface. In some species the mouth opening is rounded or oval in outline may be little sunken in a slight invagination or shallow atrium or an unadorned oral groove may be present. Toxicysts are generally present but are considered somatic in nature i.e. they are seldom in direct association with the oral area are sensu strict mucocysts are common. The cytopharyngeal complex is still of the rhabdon type. The

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individuals of this order, in which the cytostome is apical to subapical, bross of kinetid units often as three or more files of dikinetids are varying from parallel to perpendicular to body axis and developing on parental ventral surface. Extra oral toxicysts usually near kinetids of brosse. Stomatogenesis is basically of the telokinetal type and cytokinesis precedes its completion. The brosse is apparently reported at the same time (Dragesco et al 1974)

Body form is barrel-shaped; with regularly arranged ectoplasmic plates; cytostome at anterior end, surrounded by slightly longer cilia; often spinous projection at or near posterior end; one or more long caudal cilia (Kudo, 1966). The species of this genus has the barrel shaped body cytostome is at anterior side of the body and it directly open to the outside. It is surrounded by slightly longer cilia. Pellicular plates are present, which are regularly arranged in longitudinal rows and their number varies from species to species. There are two to eight spinous projections are present at or near the posterior end of the body. Some of the species possess one or more long caudal cilia at the posterior end.

Genus Coleps represents following species.

Coleps hirtus Muller, 1786

C. elongatus Ehrenberg, 1838

C. sporalis Noland, 1925

C. bicuspis Noland, 1925

C. octospinus Noland, 1925

C. heterocanthus Noland, 1925

Present author has identified and re-describe the C. hirtus Muller (1786) and C. elongatus Ehrenberg (1838).

C. hirtus Muller (1786)

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIES:**

The body of Coleps hirtus is barrel shaped and covered in regularly arranged prominent ectoplasmic plates. These plates are composed of amorphous calcium carbonate. There are about 20 longitudinal rows of pellicular plates. In present study 14 to 19 longitudinal rows of plates are observed. The present species is ranging from 70-110 $\mu$  in length and 40-63  $\mu$  in width.

The body of the Coleps hirtus is anterior as well as posterior is rounded or slightly flattened which is tooth like projection of the plates. The oral aperture is circular and it is surrounded by special plates. It is a common holotrich ciliate in fresh water habitats, especially in situation where algae and other plant material has begun decompose. There are three spinous processes at the posterior end of the body. Ciliation is uniform over the whole body i.e. in regular longitudinal kineties along the striation in the plates. The movement of Coleps hirtus is circular and it swims rapidly.

Present author collected this species from freshwater reservoir at Dhanegoan.



Figure 1 : C. hirtus.

#### **COMMENTS:**

Genus Coleps was first reported by Nitzsch (1827), many other workers such as Stein (1867), Fromental (1874), Kent (1880-1882), Maupas (1885, 1888, 1889), Butschli (1887-1889), Schewedkoff (1893, 1896), Rous (1901), Bhatia (1961, 1936), Ghosh (1921), Gulati (1925), Noland (1925, 19336), Lepsi (1926), Sandon (1927), Kahl (1935), Bick (1972, 1974), Mahajan and Nair (1974), Foissner et al., (1994), Kasai (2001) and Kiyose (2001, 2003) reported the same genus, Shaikh (2006), Deshmukh (2010) also reported the same species of the genus.

Body barrel shaped with regularly arranged pellicular ectoplasmic platelets, which are the main characteristics of the genus Coleps. *C. hirtus* is long and has twenty longitudinal rows of pellicular platelets *C. elongatus* has fourteen to seventeen rows of pellicular platelets while there are sixteen rows of platelets in *C. bicuspis* and in *C. octospinus* there are about twenty four rows of platelets. In *C. spiralis* having twenty three longitudinal rows

of platelets.

Noland reported sixteen longitudinal rows of pellicular platelets while Rao (1979) reported fourteen to sixteen rows of platelets, Shaikh (2006) observed fourteen to eighteen platelets in *C. hirtus* while present author reported fourteen to nineteen longitudinal rows of platelets. It is found to be more close to *C. hirtus*, *C. elongatus* and *C. bicspis* but differ from *C. elongatus* in body shape. Present species is broader than the *C. elongatus*.

Coleps hirtus is differing from *C. bicuspis* which has two posterior processes. *C. elongates* has three posterior processes and present species has three posterior processes at posterior end and body is barrel shaped. *C. hirtus* also has three posterior processes and barrel shaped body hence resembles to *C. hirtus*. It also differs from *C. octospinus* which has eight spines posterior processes.

Present species has lack of caudal cilium as in *C. elongatus* also lack of caudal cilium and hence differ from *C. bicuspis* and *C. spiralis* as these have a long caudal cilium at the posterior end.

Present species also reported by Shaikh (2006) reported 14 to 18 longitudinal rows of plates and body measured about 73 to  $116\mu$  in length and 44 to  $62\mu$  in width. Present author reported the same species of the same genus it is about 14 to 19 longitudinal rows of platelets and body is measured about 70 to  $110\mu$  in length and 40 to  $63\mu$  in width. Rao (1979) has also reported same species *C. hirtus* it is 95- $103\mu$  in length and 70- $78\mu$  in width.

After discussion and comparison of the present species from all the species of genus Coleps, this species found to be more close to *C. hirtus* and rediscribed here as *C. hirtus*.

#### C. elongatus Ehrenberg, 1838

#### Description of the species:

The individual of this species have barrel shaped body. Body of this species covered by regularly arranged prominent ectoplasmic pellicular plates which are made up of amorphous calcium carbonate. Body is elongated and measured about  $14.60\mu$  to  $21.5\mu$  in width and  $36.87\mu$  to  $42.99\mu$  in length.

Anterior end of the body is somewhat flattened while posterior end is rounded. Oral aperture is circular and surrounded by slightly long cilia. At the posterior end there are three spinous specs are observed. Body has uniform ciliation along regular longitudinal rows of plates. The ciliate moves along the axis with a moderate speed and also swims in a circular path. They are commonly found in all type of water containing organic detritus. It also occurs in reservoir, lakes and ponds. They are feed on saprophytically upon other protozoan and on algae, flagellates and small ciliates or rotifers.

 $Present\,author\,collected\,this\,species\,from\,freshwater\,reservoir\,at\,Dhanegoan$ 



Figure 2: C. elongates

#### **COMMENTS:**

Body is barrel shaped with regularly arranged pellicular ectoplasmic platelets, which is the main characteristic of the genus Coleps. Coleps was first repoted by Nitzsch (1827), Shaikh (2006), Deshmukh (2010) also reported the genus of the same species.

Coleps elongatus has fourteen to seventeen rows of platelets, *C. hirtus* is long and has twenty longitudinal pellicular platelets, while there are sixteen rows of platelets in *C. bicuspis* and *C. octospinus* there are about twenty four row of platelets present. *C. spiralis* is having twenty three longitudinal rows of platelets.

Deshmukh (2010) reported sixteen to eighteen longitudinal rows of these pellicular platelets. Present author

reported fourteen to seventeen longitudinal rows pellicular platelets. In number of rows of platelets it is found to be more close to *C. hirtus*, *C. elongatus* and *C. bicuspis* but differ from *C. hirtus* in body shape. Present species is slender and narrow than *C. hirtus*. *C. hirtus* is also differing from *C. bicuspis* which has two posterior processes while present species has three spinous processes at posterior end. At posterior C. elongatus also has three posterior processes hence resembles to C. elongatus. It also differs from *C. octospinus* which has eight spinous posterior processes.

Present species lacks the caudal cilium and hence differ from C. bicuspis and C. spiralis as they have a long caudal cilium at the posterior end and it has 14-17 rows of platelets. Present species is measured about 14.60-21.5 $\mu$  in width and 36.87-42.99 $\mu$  in length. Deshmukh (2010) also reported same species it is measured about 15.89-24.97 $\mu$  in width and 38.59-45.4 $\mu$  in length and observed 14 to 18 longitudinal rows of platelets.

After the discussion and comparison of the present species from all the species of genus Coleps this species found to be more close to the *C. elongatus* and rediscribed here as *Coleps elongatus*.

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