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***Cystoseira jabukae* Ercegović, a new record from the Balearic Islands**

Abstract

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Cystoseira jabukae Ercegovic, a Mediterranean endemic previously known from the Adriatic Sea, western Italy (Salerno), Sicily and Sardinia, has been found by the Balearic Islands Mallorca and Cabrera. Morphology and ecology of the collected specimens are discussed.

Description

Plants 15-25 cm. in height (up to 40 cm. Ercegović, 1952), not caespitose, attached by several more or less connected haptera (Fig. 1). Axis terete, 0.6-1 cm. in diameter, usually branched. Apex of the axis inconspicuous, without protuberance. Tophules abundant, pyriform, covered with little tubercles, arranged in a corymb around the apex of the axis and its branches. Primary laterals terete, up to 20 cm. in length and 0.05-0.15 cm. in diameter. Secondary and tertiary laterals iridescent, similar to the primary laterals. Aerocysts lacking. Receptacles at the apex of the ultimate branchlets. Conceptacles located at the base of spine-like appendages.

Cystoseira jabukae can be confused with other tophulose species with spinous appendages on the branches such as, *C. spinosa* Sauvageau and *C. algeriensis* J. Feldmann. *C. jabukae* differs from *C. spinosa* by the disposition of the tophules, in corymb in the former and dispersed in the axis in the latter, and for the apex of the axis smooth, in the first species but with protuberances in the second. *C. jabukae* differs from *C. algeriensis* in the disposition of the tophules and by always having tubercles on the tophules.

Ecology

In the Balearic Islands *Cystoseira jabukae* behaves as a sciaphilic and rheophilic species, since it has only been collected in the lower infralittoral zone on rocky sea-bottom washed by strong unidirectional currents. Specimens collected in Mallorca (Cap Formentor, 31S EE12: 26.06.1986, BCF-A 9618) grew in dense frondose algal populations at 35 metres depth, together with *Dictyopteris membranacea*, *Dictyota dichotoma*, *Halopteris filicina*, and *Peyssonnelia* spp.

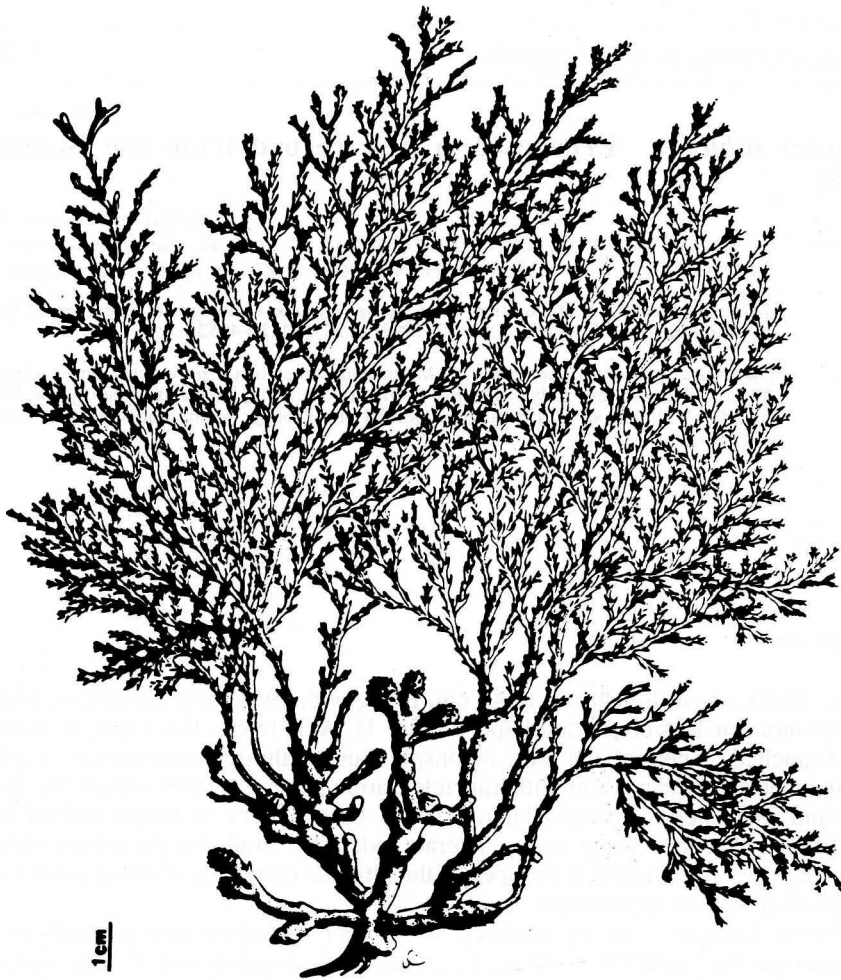


Fig. 1 - Habit of *Cystoseira jabukae* Ercegovic.

Specimens from Cabrera (Imperial Island, 31S DD93: 11.06.1989, Herbarium Mediterraneum; 15.08.1989, BCF-A 9620) come from a similar phytobenthic community which develops between 30 and 40 metres of depth.

Distribution

Cystoseira jabukae is a Mediterranean species, so far only known from the Adriatic Sea (Jabuka Island, Ercegović 1952; Giaccone 1978), western Italy (Castellabate, Salerno, Edwards & al. 1975), Sicily (Agrigento, Pantelleria Island, Giaccone & al. 1985) and Sardinia (Cossu & Gazale in press). The two new localities reported here substantially extend the known distribution of this species.

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