

**THE DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD OF NEMERTINE WORM,
EUPOLIA HEMPRICHI (EHRENBERG, 1831) FROM GUJARAT COAST**

ABSTRACT

The present note embodies the occurrence of the nemertine worm, *Eupolia hemprichi* (Ehrenberg, 1831) on Gujarat Coast for the first time. The species shows its continuous distribution.

DURING the biological specimen collection from intertidal zones of Adatra (Lat. 22° 27' N. Long. 69° 06' E.), Dwarka (Lat. 20° 14.3' N. Long. 69° 57.2' E.), Ajad (Lat. 22° 23' N. Long. 69° 20' E.), Dhani (Lat. 22° 23' N. Long. 69° 33' E.) and Pirotan (Lat. 22° 35.2' N. Long. 70° 01' E.) in 1976-77, a few specimens of *Eupolia hemprichi* (Ehrenberg, 1831) were obtained from sand and beneath stones. The specimens were collected by lifting the stones and deposited in the Museum of Marine Biological Research Station, Port Okha.

Eupolia hemprichi (Ehrenberg), the nemertine worm, was first recorded by Punnet (1903) from Maldiva and Laccadive and by Gravely (1927) from Krusadai Island of Indian waters. As *Eupolia hemprichi* has not so far been recorded from North-west coast of India, the occurrence of this species along the Gujarat Coast is of interest. The present record shows the continuous distribution of the species from the Gulf of Mannar to Gulf of Kutch.

Description

Body is ribbon shaped, slender and whitish in colour with a median red colour strip on dorso-ventral side. Length and width of collected specimens were 50-100 cms and 1.5-2 mm respectively.

Habitat

They were inhabiting rocky-sandy coast. Some of them were used to coil up under the stones, whereas some are found in the sand which was lying below the stones.

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