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ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

CHORDATA: TUNICATA: THALIACEA

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FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST



CHORDATA: TUNICATA: THALIACEA

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Introduction: Thaliacea is a group of marine animals in the Tunicata subphylum that includes salps, pyrosomes, and doliolids. They are characterized by are characterised by their translucent test, branchial and atrial siphons at opposite ends of the body and the atrial cavity posterior to the large pharynx. Unlike their benthic relatives, the ascidians, thaliaceans spend their entire lives free-floating (pelagic). Species with complex life cycles and both solitary and colonial forms are included in the

group.

Global diversity: The class encompasses approximately 78 described species in 3 orders, 4 families and 19 genera distributed globally.

Diversity in India: In India, 43 species belonging to 18 genera 2 families and 2 orders are recorded.

Diversity in States: Presented in table 1.

Table 1: Thaliacea of India, State-wise distribution

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. Species
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17
2.	Gujarat	1
3.	Kerala	3
4.	Maharashtra	3
5.	Odisha	2
6.	Tamil Nadu	39
7.	Andaman & Nicobar	16
8.	Lakshadweep	1
	Total number of species	43

Endemism: No endemism has been reported from India.

Habitat: They exclusively found in marine environment; pelagic and neritic environments.

Ecological Significance: Thaliaceans consume

phytoplankton and have a significant impact on carbon flux. Their dense faecal pellets sink to the ocean floor, potentially contributing significantly to the global carbon cycle.

Human Significance: They are recognized as ocean purifiers and an important link in the food



chain, providing humans with food indirectly.

Threatened species: Species from India are not assessed for IUCN threatened categories.

Protected Species as per WPA: Not listed.

Species under CITES: There is no species enlisted under the CITES Appendices.

Invasive alien species: No Thaliaceans species

are reported as invasive in Indian waters.

Gap areas: Thaliaceans are poorly documented from many coastal states of India. Hence, they are considered as lesser known marine animals of India. More taxonomical and ecological studies required to know their status, biology and ecology of Thaliacea fauna.

Systematic list: (Species list cited below (Table 2).

Table 2: Thaliaceans of India

Sl. No.	Species
1.	<i>Cyclosalpa pinnata</i> (Forskal, 1775)
2.	<i>Cyclosalpa sewelli</i> Metcalf, 1927
3.	<i>Cyclosalpa polae</i> Sigl, 1912
4.	<i>Cyclosalpa affins</i> (Chamisso, 1819)
5.	<i>Cyclosalpa floridana</i> (Apstein, 1894)
6.	<i>Cyclosalpa foxtoni</i> van Soest, 1974
7.	<i>Helicosalpa virgula</i> (Vogt, 1854)
8.	<i>Salpa maxima</i> Forskal, 1775
9.	<i>Salpa tuberculata</i> Metcalf, 1918
10.	<i>Salpa aspera</i> Chamisso, 1819
11.	<i>Salpa fusiformis</i> Cuvier, 1804
12.	<i>Pegea confoederata</i> (Forskal, 1775)
13.	<i>Ritteriella amboiensis</i> (Apstein, 1904)
14.	<i>Ritteriella picteti</i> (Apstein, 1904)
15.	<i>Thalia democratica</i> (Forskal, 1775)
16.	<i>Thalia rhomboides</i> (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)
17.	<i>Thalia orientalis</i> Tokioka, 1937
18.	<i>Thalia cicar</i> Van Soest, 1973
19.	<i>Thalia sibogae</i> Van Soest, 1973
20.	<i>Thalia longicauda</i> (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)
21.	<i>Brooksia rostrata</i> Transtedt, 1893
22.	<i>Metcalfina hexagona</i> (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)
23.	<i>Soestia zonaria</i> (Pallas, 1774)
24.	<i>Thetys vagina</i> Tilesius, 1802
25.	<i>Traustedtia multitentaculata</i> (Quoy and Gaimard, 1834)
26.	<i>Iasis cylindrica</i> (Cuvier, 1804)
27.	<i>Doliolum denticulatum</i> Quoy and Gaimard 1834
28.	<i>Doliolum nationalis</i> Borgert, 1893
29.	<i>Doliolina (Doliolina) muelleri</i> (Krohn, 1852)



Sl. No.	Species
30.	<i>Doliolina (Doliolina) krohni</i> Herdman, 1888
31.	<i>Doliolina (Doliolina) sigmoides</i> Garstang, 1933
32.	<i>Doliolina (Doliolina) undulata</i> Tokioka & Berner, 1958
33.	<i>Doliolina (Doliolina) obscura</i> Tokioka & Berner, 1958
34.	<i>Doliolina (Doliolinetta) indica</i> (Neumann, 1906)
35.	<i>Doliolina (Doliolinetta) intermedia</i> (Neumann, 1906)
36.	<i>Doliolina (Doliolinetta) separata</i> (Tokioka & Berner, 1958)
37.	<i>Dolioletta gegenbauri</i> (Uljanin, 1884)
38.	<i>Dolioletta tritonis</i> Herdman, 1888
39.	<i>Dolioloides rarum</i> (Grobbsen, 1882)
40.	<i>Pyrosoma aherniosum</i> Seeliger, 1895
41.	<i>Pyrosoma ovatum</i> Neumann, 1909
42.	<i>Pyrosoma atlanticum</i> Peron, 1804
43.	<i>Pyrostremma spinosum</i> (Herdman, 1888)

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