

# Natural History Snippets

Brief reports by members based on their observations of nature  
Members are invited to submit their photographs and stories to [muhudubella@gmail.com](mailto:muhudubella@gmail.com) for publication

## Seaweeds at Mount Lavinia

I have found seaweeds fascinating, ever since I first saw weed gardens in the UK during my early SCUBA diving days in the nineteen-sixties. Much later, in Sri Lanka, I began to collect and study these plants, a much-neglected field in this country. Soon after the ill-fated 'Beach nourishment' programme in early 2020 at Mount Lavinia that resulted in the burial of the rocky shore that supported many species of seaweeds and marine invertebrates, a group of us from the Marine Committee of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS) started a programme to document the return of life to the rocks that had been rendered bare of life by the burial, following the re-exposure of the rocks when the sand was washed away by the sea the following year. This article shows some of these species, photographed by the writer and by other members of the group. Most of the images are from the rock arrowed in the pre-nourishment image at right, some from the group adjacent.

Malik Fernando. 27.3.2023



Photo: Rimesh Dilshan

*Chaetomorpha antennina*

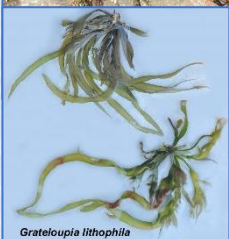
Wiry, erect tufts, common on wave-exposed rocks



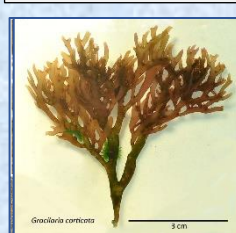
*Ulva compressa*: Carpets of limp, pendulous tufts on intertidal rocks that are air exposed at low tide



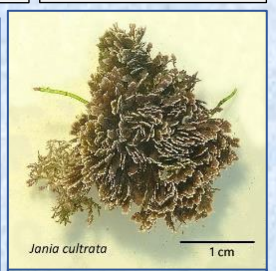
*Ceramium* sp.  
epiphytic on *Ulva*



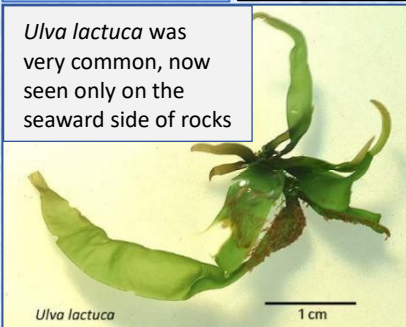
*Grateloupia lithophila*  
28.2.2021: A red alga, one of the first seaweeds to return, air exposed on a rock.



*Gracilaria corticata* forms a band between tide levels. Limpets are at high tide level and above.



*Jania cultrata*, a calcified red alga grows exposed to wave action



*Ulva lactuca* was very common, now seen only on the seaward side of rocks



*Pterocladia heteroplata*



An intertidal rock with clumps of reddish algae, exposed to indirect waves, air exposed at low tide. The clumps are mixed growths of two species.

20.3.2022: Ketiketiya, N-W flank



*Centroceras clavulatum*