

# The genus *Jania* J.V.Lamouroux (Corallinales, Rhodophyta) from Myanmar

## Abstract

A taxonomic study on the articulated coralline algae collected from the three coastal zones of Myanmar: Tanintharyi coastal zone, Deltaic coastal zone and Rakhine coastal zone, and lodged in the Herbarium of Department of Marine Science had been carried out based on the morphological, reproductive and anatomical structures. A total of 6 species of the genus, *Jania* J. V.Lamouroux representing to the tribe Janiae and subfamily Corallinoideae under order Corallinales had been identified as *J. spectabilis* (Harvey ex Grunow) JH Kim, Guiry & HG Choi, *J. unguolata* (Yendo) Yendo, *J. rubens* (Linnaeus) J.V. Lamouroux, *J. verrucosa* Lamouroux, *J. capillacea* Harvey and *J. adhaerens* J.V.Lamouroux. *J. spectabilis* had marginal conceptacles while the remaining five species of *Jania* possessed axial conceptacles originated in medullary meristems. The detailed descriptions of each species were provided. Moreover, keys for species identification and some distinctive characteristics used as taxonomic criteria were also provided. Furthermore, the distributions of each species along both the coastal zones of Myanmar and the world oceans were presented.

**Keywords:** corallinales, genicula, *Jania*, myanmar, rhodophyta, taxonom

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## Introduction

In division Rhodophyta, coralline algae belong to the family Corallinaceae under the order Corallinales. The coralline algae can be divided into two forms, the articulated (geniculate) corallines and the non-articulated (non-geniculate) corallines. Generally, the plants of the articulated corallines are branched by calcified segments called intergenicula which are separated from one another by unclassified nodes or genicula. Non-geniculate corallines are crustose and may occur on rock, coral skeletons, shells, other algae or seagrasses. Many coralline crusts produce knobby protuberances ranging from a millimeter to several centimeters high. The coralline algae are very important in the global carbon cycle, as well as the stability of coral reefs and provide habitat, refuge and grazing areas for numerous fish and invertebrate species.<sup>1</sup>

Corallinaceae was the only one family of the order Corallinales and composed of four subfamilies, namely Metagoniolithoideae, Corallinoideae, Lithophylloideae (Amphiroideae *sensu* Johansen<sup>2</sup>) and Mastophoroideae.<sup>2,3,4</sup> Of these subfamilies, articulated coralline algae were assigned to the Metagoniolithoideae, Lithophylloideae and Corallinoideae. The genus *Jania* is one of the thirteen genera of subfamily Corallinoideae and also one of the three genera of tribe Janiae (comprising *Jania*, *Haliptilon* and *Cheilosporum*) separated from the tribe Corallineae.<sup>5</sup> The genus *Jania* was characterized by having cylindrical intergenicula and branches dichotomous throughout, with marginal and axial conceptacles and comprised 48 species currently accepted taxonomically and distributed throughout the tropical, subtropical, and warm temperate areas.<sup>6</sup>

In Myanmar, Martens<sup>7</sup> recorded *J. adhaerens*, *J. fastigiata* from Pegu, Diamond I. and South Andaman Is. Kyi Win<sup>8</sup> listed *J. rubens*, *J. nipponica*, *J. radiata*, *J. adhaerens* and *J. sp.* Moreover, Kyaw Soe and Kyi Win<sup>9</sup> reported *J. rubens*, *J. nipponica*, *J. radiata*, and *Jania* sp. Soe-Htun<sup>10</sup> reported the occurrence of *J. longiarthra*, *J. rubens* and

*Cheilosporum spectabile* (= *J. spectabilis*) in Rakhine and Tanintharyi coastal zones. Soe-Htun et al.,<sup>11</sup> reported *J. radiata* from the Gwa coastal zones, Rakhine State. Soe-Htun et al.,<sup>12</sup> accounted the 3 species of *Jania* such as *J. spectabilis*, *J. pumila* and *J. radiata* along the coastal zones of Myanmar. Mya Kyawt Wai<sup>13</sup> studied the articulated coralline algae belonging to subfamily Corallinaceae along the coastal zones of Myanmar. She had been identified the 6 species of *Jania*: *J. spectabile* (= *J. spectabilis*), *J. unguolata*, *J. rubens*, *J. verrucosa*, *J. capillacea* and *J. adhaerens*. In the present study, species of the genus *Jania* collected from the coastal zones of Myanmar have been identified as six species of *Jania*, namely *J. spectabilis*, *J. unguolata*, *J. rubens*, *J. verrucosa*, *J. capillacea* Harvey and *J. adhaerens*.

The objectives of this study are: 1) to revise the taxonomy of the species of *Jania* based on the morphology of vegetative and reproductive structures; 2) to know the distribution of each species along the coastal zones of Myanmar and the world oceans.

## Materials and methods

Specimens of articulated coralline algae collected from coastal zones of Myanmar were studied. The collections were dried and preserved in 5% formaldehyde-seawater and some were prepared for herbarium specimens. These vouchered specimens were deposited in the Herbarium of Department of Marine Science, Mawlamyine University (MMB), Mawlamyine. Moreover, other specimens deposited in the Herbarium of Department of Marine Science, Mawlamyine University, were also studied. Susa fixative (HgCl<sub>2</sub>, 4.5g; trichloroacetic acid, 2.0g; glacial acetic acid, 4.0ml; formalin, 20.0ml; water, 76.0ml, after Johansen<sup>14</sup>) was used for decalcification of specimens and branches were fixed in that solution for 24h and sectioned by razor blade and stained in Ehrlich's hematoxylin. Sectioned specimens were measured under the dissecting and compound microscopes. This taxonomic study followed the classification system of Johansen<sup>2</sup>, Silva and Johansen<sup>3</sup>, Womersely and Johansen<sup>15,16</sup>, Aguirre et al.,<sup>4</sup> Bittner et al.,<sup>17</sup> Guiry<sup>18</sup>. The local

distributional range of each taxon was arranged from the specimens examined in the Department of Marine Science, Mawlamyine University and worldwide distribution of these algae was also recorded from the literature.

## Results

### Classification system of the genus *Jania*

Phylum: Rhodophyta

Class: Rhodophyceae

Order: Corallinales Silva & Johansen

Family: Corallinaceae Lamouroux

Subfamily: Corallinoideae (Areschoug) Foslie

Genus: *Jania* Lamouroux

Species: *J. spectabilis* (Harvey ex Grunow) J.H.Kim, Guiry & H.-G.Choi

*J. unguata* (Yendo) Yendo

*J. rubens* (Linnaeus) J.V.Lamouroux

*J. verrucosa* Lamouroux

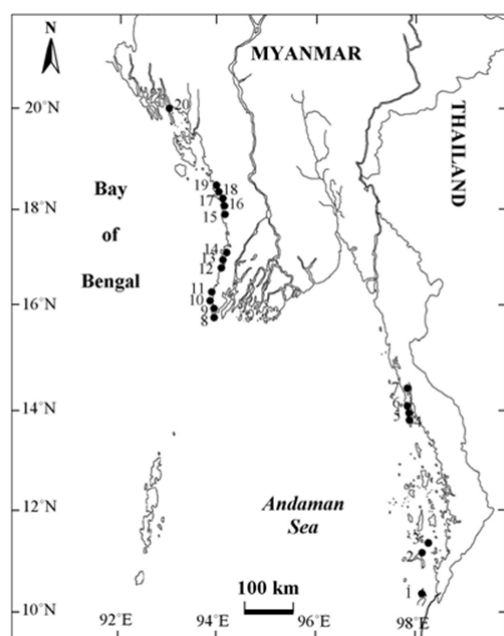
*J. capillacea* Harvey

*J. adhaerens* J.V.Lamouroux

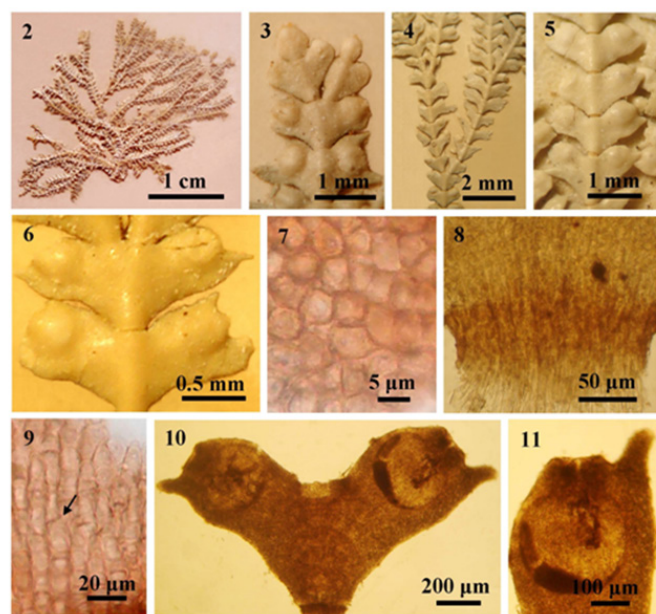
### Key to the species of *Jania* from Myanmar

- 1a. Thalli with marginal conceptacles.....*J. spectabilis*
- 1b. Thalli with axial conceptacles.....2
- 2a. Intergenicula tips compressed, unguate.....*J. unguata*
- 2b. Intergenicula tips not compressed.....3
- 3a. Intergenicula cymoid branched.....*J. rubens*
- 3b. Intergenicula dichotomous branched.....4
- 4a. Thalli robust, stiff, 7 cm high .....*J. verrucosa*
- 4b. Thalli capillary, less than 3 cm high.....5
- 5a. Intergenicula 40-100  $\mu$ m in diameter..... *J. capillacea*
- 5b. Intergenicula 100-200  $\mu$ m in diameter.....*J. adhaerens*

#### a. *Jania spectabilis* (Figures 1-11)



**Figure 1** Map showing the collection sites of species of *Jania* along the coastal zones of Myanmar. 1. St. Luke's I., 2. Lampi I., 3. High I., 4. VVa Maw, 5. Nyaw Byin, 6. Kampani, 7. Mway Taung, 8. Leik I., 9. Mawtin Point, 10. Kyar Kan, 11. Pashyu Gyaing, 12. Ngwe Saung, 13. Phoe Kalar I., 14. Makyee, 15. Maw Shwe Gyaing, 16. Sin Phyu Gyaing, 17. Moe Gyo Pyit Gyaing, 18. Ngapali, 19. Mazin, 20. Kyauk La Yaine Gyaing.



**Figures 2-11** The external and internal structures of *Jania spectabilis*; (2) Habit; (3) Rounded tip of branches; (4) Thallus showing dichotomous branching; (5-6) Intergenicula with conceptacles formed marginally; (7) Surface view, showing cortical cells; (8) Longitudinal section showing uni-tiered geniculum; (9) Longitudinal section of intergenicula showing lateral fusion among cells (arrow); (10) Decalcified intergeniculum with conceptacles; (11) Tetrasporangial conceptacle.

Type locality. Coleva, Tonga<sup>6</sup>

Description: Thalli forming a clump, pink in color, 1.6-2.2cm high, attached to the substratum by a discoid holdfast, composed of wing-like upright intergenicula; intergenicula compressed with prominent midrib; terminal segments acute at the tip; branching regularly dichotomous, lateral branches common at the lower parts; cortical cells ovate, 5-13µm broad in surface view; genicula, 80-100µm long, 190-200µm in diameter, consisting of 1 tier of medullary cells; compressed intergenicula, 440-550µm long and 0.5-2mm in diameter, composed of 5-6 tiers of medullary cells, consisting 1-3 layers of cortical cells; interlaced intergenicular filaments forming as equal length tiers, 30-45 µm long, 8-10µm in diameter, with lateral fusion; conceptacles embedded at the both sides of intergenicular margin; uniporate tetrasporangial conceptacles 210-470µm in high, 250-300µm in diameter; tetrasporangia 15-20µm long, 10-13µm in diameter. Sexual plants are not encountered in this study.

Ecological notes. Plants grow at the subtidal zone.

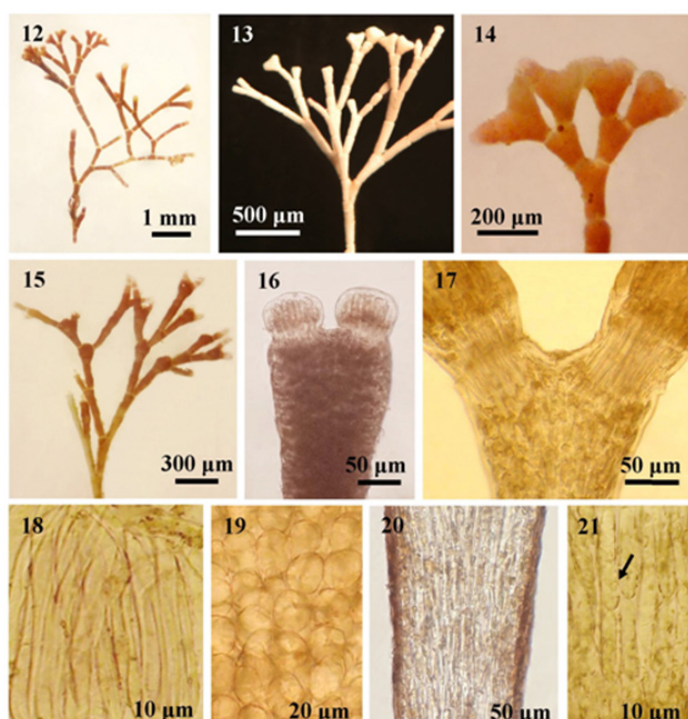
Specimens examined. Taninthayi coastal zone: Lampi I. (People's Pearl and Fish Association (PPFC), 27.i.1971; MMB 01041, 01460-010461). Deltaic coastal zone: No data. Rakhine coastal zone: No data.

Local distribution: Taninthayi coastal zone: Lampi I.; Deltaic coastal zone: No data; Rakhine coastal zone: No data.

World distribution: Atlantic Ocean- No data; Indian Ocean- Seychelles, Laccadive Is., India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Present study); Indo-Pacific Region- Vietnam, Philippines; Pacific Ocean- Micronesia, Papua

New Guinea, Solomon Is., Queensland, New Caledonia, Fiji.<sup>19</sup>

*b. Jania unguata* (Figures 12-21)



**Figures 12-21** The external and internal structures of *Jania unguata*; (12) Habit; (13) Thallus showing dichotomous branching; (14) Thallus with compressed or unguate the terminal segments; (15) Branches with sporangial conceptacles; (16) Intergeniculum showing apex of an intergeniculum with apical meristems and without cover cells; (17) Genicula forming at dichotomy; (18) Longitudinal section of genicula showing uni-tiered genicular filaments; (19) Surface view, showing cortical cells; (20-21) Longitudinal section of intergenicula; (20) Interwoven medullary filaments; (21) Lateral fusion (arrow) between cells.

Syntype localities: Various, all in Japan.<sup>20</sup>

Description: Plants erect, pink in colour, 0.5-1cm tall, attached to the host plant by a disc-like holdfast; forming in tufts; repeatedly dichotomous, subcomplanate and corymbosely branched, with wide angles of 60-70°; intergenicula cylindrical at the lower and compressed at the upper; the terminal intergenicula broad, and clearly compressed, slightly cordate at the margin; cortical cells ovate, 8-15µm broad in surface view; genicula formed at or above the forks, at the base of each branch and frequently elsewhere as well, 20-50µm in height and 50-100µm in diameter, with 1 tier of medullary cells; intergenicula, cylindrical to compressed, 350-500µm long and 110-260µm in diameter, composed of 4-6 to several tiers of medullary cells, consisting 1-2 cortical layer; medullary filaments of the intergenicula, 20-48µm high and 5-13µm in diameter, with lateral

fusion; the conceptacles, urn-shaped, formed at the tips of branches, up to 200µm high and 130-160µm in diameter.

Ecological notes. Plants grow on rocks at the middle intertidal zone.

Specimens examined. Taninthayi coastal zone- Nyaw Byin (Soe-Htun, 11.i.2001; MMB 10419); Kampani (Mya Kyawt Wai, 29.ix.2011; MMB 13092-13094; Aung Aung Htaik, 7.iii.2012; MMB 13095); Mway Taung (Soe-Htun, 5.iv.2001; MMB 10418). Deltaic coastal zone- No data. Rakhine coastal zone- Mawtin Point (Soe-Htun, 6.iv.2001; MMB 10416; Mya Kyawt Wai, 25.ii.2010; MMB 10417); Kyar Kan (Aung Aung Htaik, 17.xi.2009; MMB 10422); Pashyu Gyaing (Mya Kyawt Wai, 16.xi.2009; MMB 13127); Ngwe Saung (Mya Kyawt Wai, 27.ii.2010; MMB 10423); Phoe Kalar I.



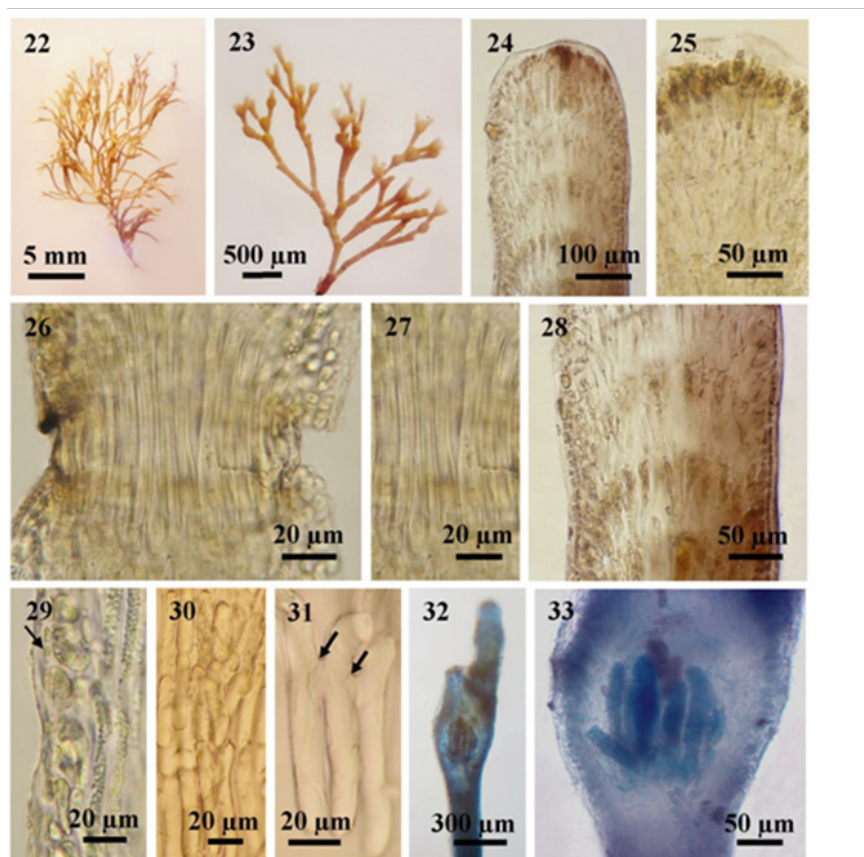
(Mya Kyawt Wai, 5.ii.2012; MMB 13128-13130); Makyee (Mu Mu Aye, 4.x.2006; MMB 10421); Mazin (Mya Kyawt Wai, 2.iv.2007; MMB 10415); Kyauk La Yaine Gyaing (Mya Kyawt Wai, 14.xii.2008; MMB 10414).

Local distribution: Tanintharyi coastal zone- Nyaw Byin, Kampani, Mway Taung; Deltaic coastal zone- No data; Rakhine Coastal Region- Mawtin Point, Kyar Kan, Pashyu Gyaing, Ngwe Saung, Phoe Kalar I.,

Makyee, Mazin, Kyauk La Yaine Gyaing.

World distribution: Atlantic Ocean- Costa Rica; Indian Ocean- Seychelles, Tanzania, Maldives, Bangladesh, Myanmar (Present study); Indo-Pacific Region- Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines; Pacific Ocean- Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Queensland, Fiji, Galápagos Islands, Ecuador.<sup>21</sup>

c. *Jania rubens* (Figures 22-33)



**Figures 22-33** The external and internal structures of *Jania rubens* (Linnaeus) Lamouroux; (22) Habit; (23) Thallus showing dichotomous branching and cymoid clusters of conceptacles; (24) Longitudinal section of intergeniculum; (25) Longitudinal section of intergenicula showing apex of an intergeniculum with apical meristem and without cover cells; (26) Longitudinal section of geniculum; (27) Uni-tiered geniculum; (28) Longitudinal section of intergeniculum showing tiers of medullary cells; (29) Longitudinal section of intergeniculum showing cortex with a single layer of epithallium cells (arrow); (30) Tiers of medullary filaments; (31) Lateral fusions (arrows) among cells; and (32-33) Mature tetrasporangia.

Type locality. Europe.<sup>22</sup>

**Description.** Plants erect, densely tufted, sometimes forming extended cushions, rose-red in color, 0.8-1.6cm high, 1-1.5cm in diameter, attached to the substratum by a minute calcareous disc, consisting of narrow angles, dichotomous and cymoid branches, occasionally four branches formed at a genicula; intergenicula cylindrical and acute or obtuse at tip, 0.7-1.4mm in length and 125-150µm in diameter at the upper; lower intergenicula of the plants somewhat cask-shaped, often about 0.4-1.2mm in length and 175-250 µm in diameter; several branches formed at a geniculum and sometimes intervening at the points of branching; cortical cells ovate, 10-15µm broad in surface view; genicula formed at or above the forks, at the base of each branch and frequently elsewhere as well, 35-120µm in length and 80-100µm in diameter, with 1 tier of medullary cells; intergenicula branch-bearing segments broadened to 240-300µm

diameter at the top; composed of 6-8 tiers of medullary cells, consisting 1-2 cortical layers; medullary filaments of the intergenicula, 43-70µm high and 8-10µm in diameter, with lateral fusion; conceptacles at first terminal, vasiform, and antenniferous, and tend to be borne in chains in a cymoid manner, eventually intercalary below a fork, with a median protruding ostiole; tetrasporangial conceptacles, 280-360µm high and 240-380µm in diameter; tetrasporangia about 75-150µm long, 15-30µm in diameter. Sexual plants are not encountered in this study.

**Ecological notes.** Plants grow on rocks at the middle intertidal zone.

**Specimens examined.** Tanintharyi coastal zone- Kampani (Aung Aung Htaik, 7.iii.2012; MMB 13104-13105). Deltaic coastal zone- No data. Rakhine coastal zone- Leik I. (Daw Nyo Nyo Tun, 3.iv.2012; MMB 13146); Mawtin Point (Aung Aung Htaik, 4.vii.2012; MMB

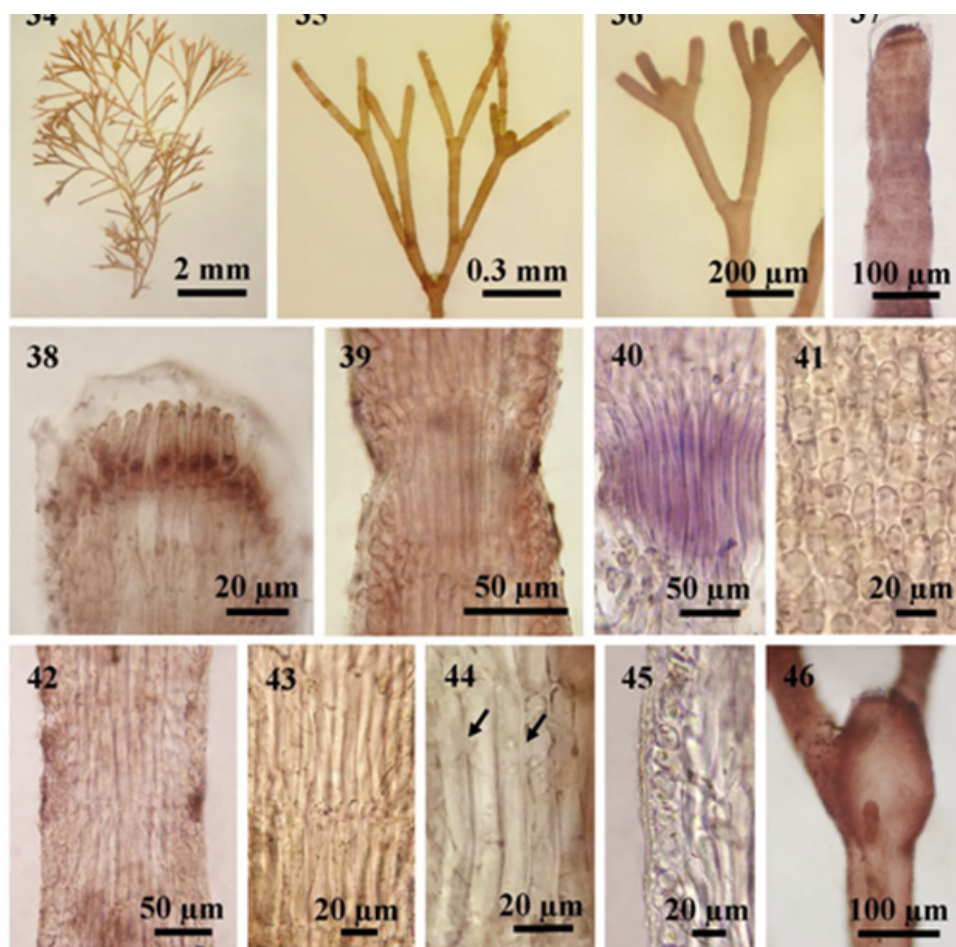
13101-13103); Kyar Kan (Mya Kyawt Wai, 16.ix.2010; MMB 13098-13100).

Local distribution: Tanintharyi coastal zone- Kampani; Deltaic coastal zone- No data; Rakhine coastal zone- Leik I., Mawtin Point, Kyar Kan.

World distribution. Atlantic Ocean- Uruguay, Brazil, Tobago, Lesser Antilles, Venezuela, Caribbean, Jamaica, Belize, Cuba, Florida, North Carolina, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Bermuda, Azores, Ireland, Britain, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Adriatic, Greece, Turkey, Israel, Libya, Tunisia, Sardi-

nia, Algeria, Balearic Islands, Morocco, Canary Islands, Mauritania, Cape Verde Islands, Senegal, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ascension; Indian Ocean- South Africa, Réunion, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros, Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Egypt, Israel (Asia), Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iran, Pakistan, India, Myanmar<sup>9</sup> (Present study), Andaman Is.; Indo-Pacific Region- Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines; Pacific Ocean- Korea, Japan, Marshall Island, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Northern Territory, Queensland, Fiji, Colombia, Chile, California.<sup>6</sup>

d. *Jania verrucosa* (Figures 34-46)



**Figures 34-46** The external and internal structures of *Jania verrucosa*: (34) Habit; (35) Thallus showing dichotomous branching; (36) Intergenicula with conceptacles; (37) Longitudinal section of intergeniculum; (38) Longitudinal section of intergeniculum showing apical cells; (39) Longitudinal section of geniculum; (40) Uni-tiered geniculum; (41) Surface view, showing cortical cells; (42-45) Longitudinal section of intergenicula: (42-43) Intergeniculum composed of medullary cells; (44) Lateral fusions (arrows) among cells; (45) Mature intergeniculum with two layers of cortical cells; and (46) Longitudinal section of conceptacle.

Type locality. Amérique Méridionale.<sup>20</sup>

Description. Plants erect, forming clumps up to 7cm high, and 2cm in diameter, dull pink in colour, with stiff and densely tufted branches, growing on the rock by a discoidal holdfast; dichotomous, sometimes corymbosely branched, with narrow angles of 45-60°; intergenicula-

terete, shorter at the lower part of the plant, with occasional several adventitious lateral branches at below; tips of branches pale; cortical cells rounded to oblong, 7.5-10µm broad in surface view; genicula formed at the forks, on the intergenicula and at the base of each branch, 40-150µm in length and 50-140µm in diameter, composed of a single tier of medullary cells, 5-10µm in diameter; intergenicula,



300-450µm long and more or less uniform in diameter throughout, 120-150µm in diameter at the upper part and 300-370µm long and up to 200µm in diameter at the lower part, composed of interwoven medullary cells forming 6-10 tiers, consisting 1-3 layers of cortical cells; medullary filaments of the intergenicula with lateral fusion, 30-70µm in length and 8-10µm in diameter; tetrasporangial conceptacles not abundant, 200-400µm in length and 200-260µm in diameter, forming at the terminal segments, with bi- or tri-antenniferous; mature tetraspores 50-100µm long and 40-90µm broad.

**Ecological notes.** Plants are epilithic, occurring in shallow pools or on rocks at the middle intertidal zone.

**Specimens examined.** Tanintharyi coastal zone- No data. Deltaic coastal zone- No data. Rakhine coastal zone- Phoe Kalar I. (Mya Kyawt Wai, 5.ii.2012; MMB 13106-13108); Ngapali (San Tha Tun,

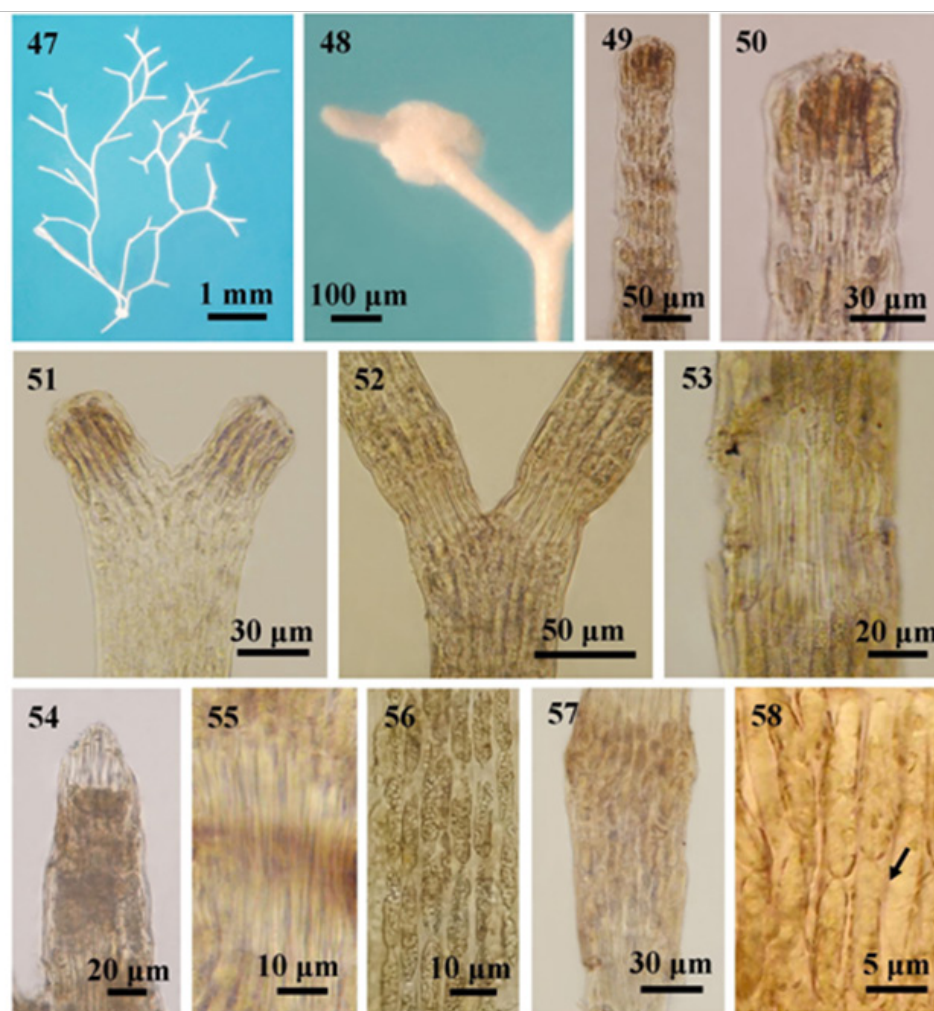
17.iii.1987; MMB 06856); Mazin (Nyan Wai Tun, 30.iv.1984; MMB 02969).

**Local distribution.** Tanintharyi coastal zone- No data; Deltaic coastal zone- No data; Rakhine coastal zone- Phoe Kalar I., Ngapali, Mazin.

**World distribution.** Atlantic Ocean- Cape Verde Islands, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Belize, Nigeria, Angola; Indian Ocean- South Africa, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Present

study); Indo-Pacific Region- Singapore; Pacific Ocean- Queensland, New South Wales, New Zealand, Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Hawaiian Islands, Mexico.<sup>22</sup>

*e. Jania capillacea* (Figures 47-58)



**Figures 47-58** The external and internal structures of *Jania capillacea*; (47) Habit; (48) The accessory attachment discs; (49) Longitudinal sections of intergeniculum; (50) Longitudinal sections of intergeniculum showing apex of an intergeniculum with apical meristem and without cover cells; (51) A branch with initials of dichotomous; (52) Thallus showing dichotomous branching; (53) Longitudinal section showing uni-tiered geniculum; (54) Geniculum formed at the tip of intergeniculum; (55) Genicular filaments; (56) Surface view, showing cortical cells; (57) Longitudinal section of intergenicula showing tiers of medullary cells; and (58) Lateral fusion (arrow) among cells.

Type locality. Bahia Honda, Florida, U.S.A.<sup>22</sup>

Description. Thalli minute, capillary, epiphytic, pink, 5-8mm high, attached to the host plant by a disc-like holdfast; forming in tufts; branching regularly dichotomous with wide angles of 60°-100°; the branches sometimes recurved, composed of 1-3 segments or intergenicula between dichotomies; apices blunt; small disc-like attachments often found on branches; cortical cells ovate to obovate, 5-10µm broad in surface view; propagulae with antenna-like branches formed at the upper part of the plants; genicula formed at the fork and along the branches, 20-80 µm in height and 40-70µm in diameter, consisting 1 tier of medullar cells; intergenicula, cylindrical, 100-900µm long and 40-100µm in diameter, composed of interwoven medullar cells forming about 10-20 tiers, consisting 1-2 cortical layers; medullary filaments of the intergenicula, 28-75µm high and 5-10µm in diameter with lateral fusion; conceptacles were not found; asexual reproduction by attachment discs from any one of the three limbs produced from triangular propagulae.

Ecological notes. Plants are epiphytic on shells and algae at the intertidal zone.

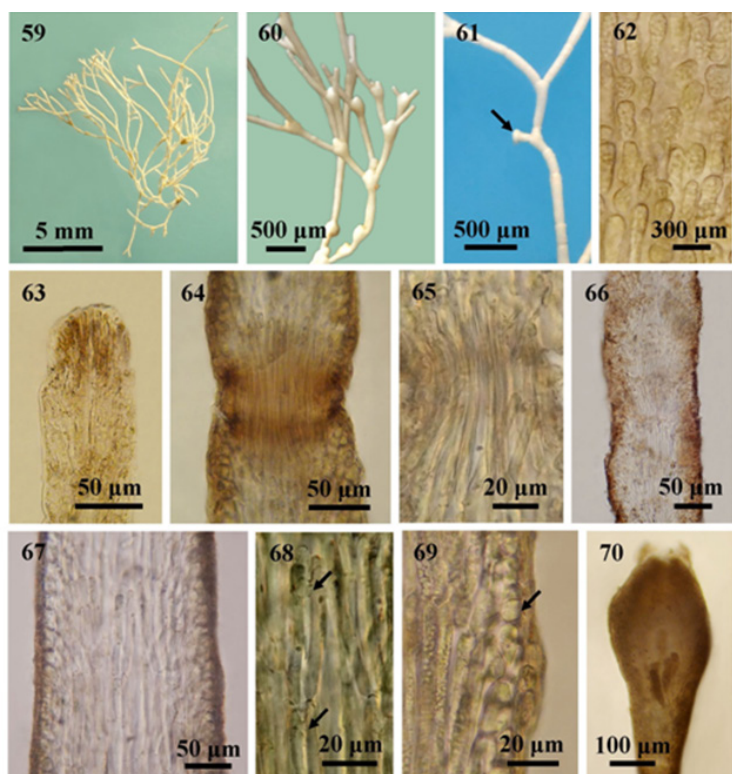
Specimens examined. Tanintharyi coastal zone- St. Luke's I. (Yin Yin Htay, 5.iv.2013; MMB 13137-13139); Lampi I. (Tint Swe, 4.i.2008; MMB 10454); High I. (Yin Yin Htay, 12.xi.2008; MMB 10455); Wa Maw (Yin Yin Htay, 18.iv.2009; MMB 10451); Nyaw Byin (Soe-Htun, 11.i.2002; MMB 10452); Mway Taung (Soe-H-

tun, 6.iv.2001; MMB 10453). Deltaic coastal zone- No data. Rakhine coastal zone- Mawtin Point (Soe-Htun, 6.iv.2001; MMB 10447; Mya Kyawt Wai, 25.ii.2010; MMB 10448-10450); Ngwe Saung (Mya Kyawt Wai, 27.ii.2010; MMB 10456); Makyee (Mu Mu Aye, 4.x.2006; MMB 10446); Maw Shwe Gyaing (Soe-Htun, 7.x.2002; MMB 10445); Sin Phyu Gyaing (Soe-Htun, 8.iv.2004; MMB 10444); Moe Gyo Pyit Gyaing (Soe-Htun, 7.iv.2004; MMB 10443); Mazin (Soe-Htun, 4.iv.2004; MMB 10442).

Local distribution. Tanintharyi coastal zone- St. Luke's I., Lampi I., High I., Wa Maw, Nyawbyin, Mway Taung; Deltaic coastal zone- No data; Rakhine coastal zone- Mawtin Point, Ngwe Saung, Makyee, Maw Shwe Gyaing, Sin Phyu Gyaing, Moe Gyo Pyit Gyaing, Mazin.

World distribution. Atlantic Ocean- Brazil, Lesser Antilles, Caribbean, Panama, Costa Rica, Belize, Jamaica, Cuba, Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Bahamas, Hispaniola, Barbados, Virgin Islands, Bermuda, Madeira, Canary Islands, Mauritania, Cape Verde Islands, Ghana, Gabon, Ascension; Indian Ocean- South Africa, Réunion, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania, Kenya, Yemen, Pakistan, India, Laccadive Islands, Maldives; Myanmar (Present study); Indo-Pacific Region- Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines; Pacific Ocean- Japan, Marshall Island, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Islas Revillagigedo, Mexico, Galápagos Islands, Colombia, Ecuador.<sup>6</sup>

*f. Jania adhaerens* (Figures 59-70)



**Figures 59-70** The external and internal structures of *Jania adhaerens*; (59) Habit; (60) A branch with antenniferous axial conceptacles in chain; (61) The accessory attachment discs (arrow); (62) Surface view, showing cortical cells; (63) Longitudinal sections of intergeniculum showing apex of an intergeniculum with apical meristem and without cover cells; (64) Longitudinal section showing uni-tiered geniculum; (65) Genicular filaments; (66-69) Longitudinal section of intergenicula: (66-67) Intergenicula with several tiers of medullary filaments; (68) Lateral fusions (arrows) among medullary cells; (69) Mature intergeniculum with cortical cells (arrow); and (70) Longitudinal section of mature tetrasporangial conceptacle.

Type locality. Mediterranean.<sup>22</sup>

Description. Plants erect, capillary, pink in colour, 1-2cm high, attached to substratum by a disc-like holdfast; forming dense tufts; branching dichotomous with some irregular, wide-angled (30°-70°), the lower branches cylindrical, often arcuate; disc-like attachments found on the lower branches; intergenicula bearing branches slightly dilated and retuse at the upper end; apices of branch conical, acute; cortical cells oblong, 5-15µm broad in surface view; genicula formed at the forks and at the base of each branch, 40-50µm in height and 70-100µm in diameter, composed of single tier of medullary cells; intergenicula, cylindrical, short, 100-400µm long and 100-200µm in diameter at the lower part and 100-1500µm long and up to 200µm in diameter at the upper part, composed of interwoven medullary cells forming about 3-6 tiers, 43-70µm high and 8-10 µm in diameter, consisting 1-3 cortical layers; medullary filaments of the intergenicula with lateral fusion; the conceptacles vasiform, found at or near the ends of the ultimate branches, bearing 2 hornlike projections, which develop into branches and often in time for additional conceptacles; conceptacles, 280-360µm high and 240-380µm in diameter.

Ecological notes. Plants grow as epiphytes on the other algae at the intertidal zone.

Specimens examined. Tanintharyi coastal zone- Kampani (Aung Aung Htike, 7.iii.2012; MMB 13115-13117; 29.iii.2013; MMB 13134-13136). Deltaic coastal zone- No data. Rakhine coastal zone - Mawtin Point (Nay Myo Aye, 6.iv.2001; MMB 13112-13113); Ngwe Saung (Mya Kyawt Wai, 24.ii.2012; MMB 13114); Sin Phyu Gyaing

(Soe-Htun, 8.iv.2004; MMB 13109-13111).

Local distribution: Tanintharyi coastal zone- Kampani; Deltaic coastal zone- No data; Rakhine coastal zone- Mawtin Point, Ngwe Saung, Sin Phyu Gyaing.

World distribution. Atlantic Ocean- Brazil, Lesser Antilles, Venezuela, Jamaica, Belize, Cuba, Florida, North Carolina, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Isla Guadalupe, Virgin Islands, Bermuda, Azores, Spain, Balearic Islands, Corsica, Italy, Greece, Israel, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Cameroon; Indian Ocean- South Africa, Réunion, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, India, Laccadive Islands, Bangladesh, Myanmar (Present study), Andaman Islands; Indo-Pacific Region- Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines; Pacific Ocean- Taiwan, China, Korea, Japan, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Queensland, Fiji, Hawaiian Islands, California, Colombia, Ecuador.<sup>6</sup>

## Discussion

In segregating the genera of articulated corallines, the conceptacles position of each genus, the terminal (axial) position of conceptacles in *Corallina* and *Jania* and their lateral position in *Amphiroa*, has been generally used by Decaisne since 1842.<sup>2</sup> Not only reproductive characters but also vegetative characters such as shape of medullary filaments, type of branching, are important in the classification of articulated coralline algae. Some vegetative structures used in the identification of species are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1** A comparison of species of *Jania* characterized by distinctive characteristics used as taxonomic criteria

Species	Frond		Genicula	Intergenicula		
	Maximum length	Habit	No. of tiers of medullary cells	Length	Diameter	Arrangement of medullary cells
<i>J. spectabilis</i>	1.6-2.2 cm	clump	1 tier	440-550 µm	0.5-2 mm	interlaced filaments forming 5-6 tiers of medullary cells
<i>J. unguolata</i>	0.5-1cm	tufts	1 tier	350-500µm	110-260µm	4-6 to several tiers of medullary cells
<i>J. rubens</i>	0.8-1.6 cm	erect, densely tufted	1 tier	0.7-1.4 mm at the upper, 0.4-1.2 mm at the lower	125-150µm at the upper, 175-250 µm at the lower	6-8 tires of medullary cells
<i>J. verrucosa</i>	up to 7 cm	erect, forming clumps	a single tier	300-450µm	120-200µm	6-10 tires of medullary cells
<i>J. capillacea</i>	5-8mm	epiphytic	1 tier	100-900µm	40-100µm	interwoven medullary cells forming about 10-20 tiers
<i>J. adhaerens</i>	1-2cm	erect, dense tufts	single tier	100-1500 µm	100-200 µm in diam.	interwoven medullary cells forming about 3-6 tiers



The species identification of articulated coralline algae was carried out based on shape of intergenicula; presence of midrib at the segments; branching type, type of genicula; number of tiers formed at the genicula; shape, composition and arrangement of (short and

long) tiers of medullary cells in intergenicula; presence or absence of secondary pit-connections and lateral fusions at medullary filaments of the intergenicula; and position of conceptacles.

**Table 2** The distributional range of *Jania* spp. along the coastal zones of Myanmar

Sr. No.	Species	TCZ		DCZ		RCZ	
		From	To	From	To	From	To
1.	<i>J. spectabilis</i>	Lampi I. Lat. 10° 58' N, Long. 98° 08' E	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
2.	<i>J. unguolata</i>	Nyaw Byin Lat. 13° 40' N, Long. 98° 08' E	Mway Taung Lat. 14° 27' N, Long. 98° 00' E	No data	No data	Mawtin Point Lat. 15° 57' N, Long. 94° 14' E	Kyauk La Yaine Gyaing Lat. 19° 50' N, Long. 93° 25' E
3.	<i>J. rubens</i>	Kampani Lat. 14° 02' N, Long. 98° 04' E	No data	No data	No data	Leik I. Lat. 15° 51' N, Long. 94° 17' E	Kyar Kan Lat. 15° 59' N, Long. 94° 13' E
4.	<i>J. verrucosa</i>	No data	No data	No data	No data	Phoe Kalar I. Lat. 16° 57' N, Long. 94° 26' E	Mazin Lat. 18° 26' N, Long. 94° 18' E
5.	<i>J. capillacea</i>	St. Luke's I. Lat. 10° 10' N, Long. 98° 15' E	Mway Taung Lat. 14° 27' N, Long. 98° 00' E	No data	No data	Mawtin Point Lat. 15° 57' N, Long. 94° 14' E	Mazin Lat. 18° 26' N, Long. 94° 18' E
6.	<i>J. adhaerens</i>	Kampani Lat. 14° 02' N, Long. 98° 04' E	No data	No data	No data	Mawtin Point Lat. 15° 57' N, Long. 94° 14' E	Sin Phyu Gyaing Lat. 18° 14' N, Long. 94° 20' E

**Abbreviations:** TCZ, The Taninthayi coastal zone; DCZ, The deltaic coastal zone; RCZ, The Rakhine coastal zone.

*J. spectabilis* was firstly described as *Cheilosporum spectabile* by Harvey ex Grunow in 1874.<sup>20</sup> Based on nuclear SSU rDNA sequences and anatomical data, some species of the genera *Cheilosporum*, *Halitilon*, and *Jania* had been combined into a single genus, *Jania* including *Cheilosporum spectabile* Harvey ex Grunow by Kim et al.,<sup>23</sup> So, *Jania spectabilis* (Harvey ex Grunow) Kim, Guiry & Choi is currently accepted name of *Cheilosporum spectabile* Harvey ex Grunow. Generally, *J. spectabilis* can be distinguished by dichotomous branching, flattened and wing-like intergenicula with prominent midrib and marginal conceptacles embedded on the both sides of wings. The morphology of this species differs from *J. cultrata* and *J. sagittata* in position of conceptacles, tip of branches and shape of intergenicula. The two conceptacles form on each side of intergeniculum in *J. cultrata* whereas only one conceptacle occurs on each side of intergeniculum in *J. spectabilis*.<sup>24</sup> In addition, intergenicular lengths of *J. sagittata* (435-665 (-750)µm) are longer than those of *J. spectabilis* (440-550µm).<sup>24</sup> Moreover, both sides of intergenicula found in *J. sagittata* are more sagittate than those of *J. spectabilis*.

*J. spectabilis* of the Samoa showed dichotomous branches commonly found from the mid to the upper parts and adventitious branches were found at the lower parts.<sup>25</sup> The tip of the trilobe segments were rounded

in Samoa species. Species of Myanmar agree well with those species in having branching dichotomous and adventitious branches and differ from those species in having acute tip. Jha et al.,<sup>26</sup> also reported that *J. spectabilis* from India were markedly flattened with prominent midrib and wings on both sides. The solitary or paired conceptacles and acute tip of segments were found in Indian species. Acute tip can also be found at the intergenicula in the species of Myanmar but solitary conceptacles cannot be observed. In Myanmar, Soe-Htun<sup>10</sup> firstly reported *J. spectabilis* (as *Cheilosporum spectabile*) from Rakhine coastal zone. Soe-Htun et al.,<sup>12</sup> accounted *J. spectabilis* from Tanintharyi coastal zone. In present study, this species is recorded only from Lampi I. (Lat. 10°58' N, Long. 98°08' E) according to herbaria housed in Marine Science Department, Mawlamyine University. It is distributed throughout the tropical Regions of the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, and Indo-Pacific Region.

*J. unguolata* can be distinguished from other species by the compressed and unguulate tip of segments and subcomplanate and closely corymbose branching at the upper part of plant. In 1902, Yendo described *Jania unguolata* and *J. unguolata* f. *brevior* as new species of the genus *Corallina* from Japan. According to his description of these species, the habit of *J. unguolata* was similar to the habit of *Corallina adhaerens* in forming a large mass of spongy network. *J. unguolata*

was smaller than *J. unguolata* f. *brevior* in virtue of the shortness of the articuli. He did not give distinguished characters between the two species. So, Taylor<sup>27</sup> suggested that his specimens from Galapago's Is. could be f. *brevior* Yendo but he described it as *J. unguolata* because Yendo did not give measurements of his plants.

In this study, *J. unguolata* has been recorded from Nyaw Byin (Lat. 13°40' N, Long. 98°06' E) to Mway Taung (Lat. 14°27' N, Long. 98°00' E) along the Tanintharyi coastal zone and Mawtin Point (Lat. 15°57' N, Long. 94°14' E) to Kyauk La Yaine Gyaing (Lat. 19°50' N, Long. 93°25' E) along the Rakhine coastal zone based from specimens examined. *J. unguolata* is distributed in tropical and subtropical areas of all of the oceans.

In 1758 *J. rubens* was firstly described as *Corallina rubens* by Linnaeus because of having dichotomous branched and cylindrical intergenicula with broader upper ends.<sup>28</sup> Lamouroux<sup>29</sup> proposed the genus *Jania* and firstly mentioned *Jania rubens* which was regarded as a lectotype species of the genus *Jania*. According to description of Lamouroux, *J. rubens* has dichotomous intergenicula which are cylindrical and club-shaped; terminal conceptacles are solitary or connected as if strung with one or two appendages.

In the present study, *J. rubens* can be recognized by its erect and corymbose branches, club-shaped terminal branches, and cymoid clusters of conceptacles. The branches of *J. rubens* are cylindrical at the upper and ultimate branches are club-shaped where as lower branches are subcylindrical to cask-shaped. The branching type of this species is dichotomous forming cymoid manner. Sometimes, several branches formed at a geniculum and sometimes intervening at the points of branching but some branches formed along the intergenicula. Likewise, Taylor (1967) described several segments of this species intervening at the points of branching. He also described the corymbose type of branching in this species. In 1945, Taylor suggested the similar habits of *J. mexicana* and *J. rubens* but the proportion and diameters of the intergenicula are different and intergenicula of *J. mexicana* was much more slender than that of *J. rubens*. In Myanmar, Kyaw Soe and Kyi Win<sup>9</sup> firstly described *J. rubens* from Rakhine and Tanintharyi coastal zones. This species are growing epilithically on the rocks at mid intertidal region along the Kampani (Lat 14°02' N, Long 98°04' E) along the Tanintharyi coastal zone and Leik I. (Lat. 15° 51' N, Long. 94° 17'E) to Kyar Kan (Lat. 15°59'N, Long. 94°13' E) along the Rakhine coastal zone. *J. rubens* is distributed throughout the tropical and subtropical areas of all of the oceans.

Although Lamouroux<sup>29</sup> firstly described *J. verrucosa*, *J. pedunculata* and *J. crassa* were also firstly described in 1821,<sup>30</sup> the latter two are currently recorded as synonyms of the former. Kützing<sup>31</sup> identified *J. verrucosa* under the name of *Corallina natalensis*, and *C. pedunculata* and illustrated the habit, warty intergenicula and branching pattern of these species. It was found that *J. pedunculata* had a branch with 8-11 tiers of medullary cells per intergeniculum in his illustrations. In this study, the original nomenclature by Lamouroux is retained.

Dawson<sup>32</sup> identified specimens of *J. verrucosa* from Mexico as *J. natalensis* and discussed that this species was similar with *J. mexicana* in habit but *J. verrucosa* was distinctly larger in all respects and had irregularly elongate intergenicula. Tseng<sup>30</sup> identified this species from China as *J. crassa* and he described that plants from China are dull grey-pink in colour and turfed on rocks. Intergenicula of those plants are cylindrical and dichotomous, with several adventitious

branchlets. Likewise, the plants of Myanmar are dull pink in colour and are composed of stiff and densely tufted branches. Dichotomous branchings with narrow angle are observed throughout the plants. Tips of the intergenicula are pale in colour. The several adventitious lateral branches are occasionally observed at below the intergenicula.

The thalli of *J. verrucosa* are more robust than that of the other species of *Jania* observed in Myanmar. Medullary cells of the intergenicula and genicula are larger than those of the other species of *Jania* in the present study. The warty like epiphytic plants are mostly found on the middle and lower part of intergenicula. Axial conceptacles with two-three antennae occur on the terminal part of the branches. This species can found epilithically growing on the rocks and in shallow tide pools at the mid intertidal zone of Phoekalar Is., Chaungtha coastal areas.

Womersley and Johansen<sup>15</sup> also described that *J. verrucosa* from Southern Australia was light to medium red-brown, fading to grey-white in colour and the branches were densely tufted and fastigiated. Farr et al.,<sup>1</sup> also described the two other names which had been used for *J. verrucosa* in New Zealand, namely *J. crassa* and *J. novae-zelandiae*. Pale tip are observed in New Zealand's species as well as species of Myanmar. Rosas-Alquicira et al.,<sup>33</sup> reported that the current name of both *J. crassa* and *J. natalensis* was *J. verrucosa* but they proposed that taxonomic status of these species were needed to be confirmed by comparative studies of both types. This species are scarcely growing on the rocks at mid intertidal region of Phoe Kalar I. (Lat. 16°57' N, Long. 94°26' E) and Mazin (Lat. 18°26'N, Long. 94°18'E) at the Rakhine coastal zone. *Jania verrucosa* is distributed throughout the tropical and subtropical areas of all of the oceans.

The attachments discs can be found at the basal part in both *J. capillacea* and *J. adhaerens*. However, the former can be distinguished from the latter by smaller diameter of segments (40-100 µm) and presence of triangular propagulae at the upper part of plant. Dawson<sup>32</sup> described that propagulae formed at the upper part of the plant has antenna-like branches at the upper corners. Attachment discs occur on one of those branches and regenerate a new plant from discs. Rosas-Alquicira et al.,<sup>33</sup> discussed that *J. capillaceae* was regarded as current name but status and disposition of this species was uncertain because the type was not studied in a modern context. *J. capillacea* is distributed from St. Luke's I. (Lat. 10°10' N, Long. 98°15' E) to Mway Taung (Lat. 14°27' N, Long. 98°00' E) along the Tanintharyi coastal zones and, Mawtin Point (Lat. 15°57' N, Long. 94°14'E) to Mazin (Lat. 18°26' N, Long. 94°18' E) along the Rakhine coastal zones of Myanmar, except the deltaic coastal zone. It is widely distributed throughout the tropical and subtropical Regions of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, and Indo-Pacific Region.

Yendo<sup>34</sup> described *J. adhaerens* from Japan such as slender capillary intergenicula, irregularly decussate dichotomous branches with slightly attenuated at ultimate and formed fastening discs at their ends. He discussed that many species of *Jania* e.g. *Jania capillacea*, *J. micrarthrodia* f. *antennina*, *J. micrarthrodia* f. *tenissima*, *J. tenella*, *J. norae-zelandae* and *J. unguolata*, were closely related to *J. adhaerens* from the warmer part of the Atlantic and the Pacific Ocean. He pointed out that the relative size of the intergenicula was essential for distinguishing character. In 1953, Dawson discussed that the description of *J. adhaerens* given by Yendo was similar or equal to *J. decussato-dichotoma* and to several other species. He also discussed that identification of *Jania decussato-dichotoma* and other species may be confused with *J. adhaerens* because of absence of an adequate

description, a type specimen, an authentic illustration and the source of the original material of the latter species. Haung<sup>35</sup> reported that the species *J. decussato-dichotoma* (Yendo) Yendo was synonym of *J. adhaerens*. Hoek et al.,<sup>36</sup> described rounded attachment discs present at the creeping basal part of thalli in this species. Likewise, Coppejans et al.,<sup>37</sup> also described this species of Sri Lanka as secondary adhesion discs present on the cylindrical intergenicula. In present study, accessory attachment discs can also be observed especially at the basal part of thallus. Rosas-Alquicira et al.,<sup>33</sup> described that the status of this species was currently accepted but it was uncertain because the type was not studied in a modern context. In Myanmar, Martens<sup>7</sup> firstly reported *J. adhaerens* from South Andaman Is. Kyi-Win<sup>8</sup> and Kyaw Soe and Kyi Win<sup>9</sup> identified the *J. adhaerens* from Tanintharyi coastal zone. In present study, *J. adhaerens* occurs along the Tanintharyi and Rakhine coastal zones of Myanmar from Kampani (Lat. 14°02' N, Long. 98°04' E) in the south to Sin Phyu Gyaing (Lat. 18°14' N, Long. 94°20' E) in the north. The wide phylogeographic distribution was observed throughout the tropics to subtropics.

## Conclusion

Research on the systematics of the articulated corallinaceae belonging to subfamily Corallinoideae was conducted in the present study. Firstly, the taxonomic study of articulated coralline algae collected from the coastal zones of Myanmar was described. Detailed descriptions of six species of the genus, *Jania* were provided. The species were *J. spectabilis*, *J. unguolata*, *J. rubens*, *J. verrucosa*, *J. capillacea* Harvey and *J. adhaerens*. Moreover, the distributions of each species along the coastal zones of Myanmar and world were studied based on the information from specimens examined and available literature. *J. spectabilis* distributes only along the Tanintharyi coastal zones while the other five species distribute along the Rakhine and Tanintharyi coastal zones. *J. spectabilis* are distributed throughout the tropical and subtropical oceans except the Atlantic Ocean. *J. unguolata*, *J. rubens*, *J. verrucosa*, *J. capillacea* and *J. adhaerens* are widely distributed throughout the tropical and subtropical Regions of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, and Indo-Pacific Regions.

Moreover, an assemblage of calcified articulated coralline algae provides as habitats for invertebrates and nursery grounds for fish larvae. So, it also serves for the maintenance of biodiversity. Consequently, coralline algae contribute in the formation of coral reef because they precipitate calcium carbonate as calcite. In addition, coralline algae are one of the components of coral reef ecosystem. Therefore, research works on these algae are still needed to be worked out the confirmation of systematics positions and developmental processes pertaining to the reef formation in nature as of sustainable marine resource management.

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## Conflict of Interest

None.

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