

A New Record of Seagrass *Halophila beccarii* Ascherson in Bangladesh[†]

Abu Hena Mustafa Kanal^{1*} and F. Short²

¹*Institute of Marine Sciences and Fisheries, University of Chittagong, Chittagong 4331, Bangladesh*

²*Jackson Estuarine Laboratory, Department of Natural Resources, University of New Hampshire, 85 Adams Point Road, Durham, NH 03824, USA*

*Corresponding author. E-mail: hena71@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The seagrass Halophila beccarii Ascherson was collected from the intertidal area of Bakkhali estuarine environment, situated at Cox's Bazar in the south-east coastal area of Bangladesh. Seagrass H. beccarii was found in an accrete area and co-existed with mangroves (Avicennia alba and A. marina) and salt marsh (Porteresia coarctata) and scattered sparsely in the salt marsh habitat and macroalgae Ulva intestinalis. The morphological structures, especially vegetative, distribution and environmental parameters are discussed. The discovery of H. beccarii from the vicinity of Bakkhali estuarine environment is a new record and increases the number of published seagrasses species known in Bangladesh waters to three.

Key words: Seagrass, *Halophila beccarii* Ascherson, Bakkhali estuary, Bangladesh

INTRODUCTION

The coastlines of Bangladesh are highly productive in terms of nutrient input from different sources that promote other living resources. These coastal areas are comprised of a variety of aquatic macrophytes. Among these macrophytes, seagrasses grow in the intertidal and littoral zone in the coastal area of Bangladesh (Islam and Aziz, 1980; Islam, 1997). The coastlines and estuarine coastal water-logged areas of Bangladesh harbor at least four species of seagrass; *Halodule uninervis* (Forsskal) Ascherson, *Halophila decipiens* Ostenfeld, *Ruppia maritima* Linnaeus and *Halophila pinifolia* (Miki) Den Hartog (Islam and Aziz, 1980; Islam, 1997; Abu Hena 2006 and Abu Hena unpublished data). In February 2006, another seagrass, *Halophila beccarii* Ascherson was found in the intertidal

[†]Contribution No 6 the Laboratory of Estuarine, Coastal and Aquaculture Research (LECAR), Institute of Marine Sciences and Fisheries, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh.