

# BRITISH FOLLICULINIDAE (CILIATA, HETEROTRICHA)

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(Text-figures 1-3)

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## INTRODUCTION

The Folliculinidae are a well-marked family of heterotrichan ciliates, most of which are marine and have a world-wide distribution. They are abundant in most marine aquaria, while in the sea they are usually found attached to Algae, Polyzoa, Crustacea, Mollusca, tube-building Annelida or tests of Tunicata, down to a depth of about 5 fathoms. The family is characterized by: (a) the blue or bottle-green colour of the body; (b) the large bilobed peristomial field; (c) secretion of a case in the form of a bottle or flask; (d) the two phases in its life, one sedentary and the other migratory; and (e) dedifferentiation of the adult to form the migratory phase and its reorganization into the sedentary phase.

Since the latest publication on British Folliculinidae (Das, 1947*b*), the present author had the opportunity of examining six species of Folliculinidae during his stay in Great Britain. If the records by other workers of *Folliculinopsis ampulla* (Müller) be correct, and if *Parafolliculina hirundo* (Kent) be included, we now have eight definite species of British folliculinids; whereas until 1946 only three species were known. An attempt has been made in this paper to give complete, and for most revised, descriptions of these eight species. The classification followed here is after Fauré-Fremiet (1936*b*), who has shown that many of the genera listed by Kahl (1932, 1933) are not based on well-marked anatomical characters but on the case or lorica alone. Besides, many of the original descriptions by Kent (1881-82) require revision on the basis of work done since then. The characters used for differentiation of species

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are: (i) the size and shape of the case and the body; (ii) the nature of the macronucleus; (iii) the structure of the cell-body; (iv) the colour and nature of pigment; (v) the ciliary bands; (vi) the peristomial lobes; and (vii) the shape and structure of the larva along with the nature of metamorphosis.

#### HISTORY OF OUR KNOWLEDGE OF BRITISH SPECIES

Our knowledge of British Folliculinidae dates back to 1880, when Wright (1858-9, 1862) described a species as *Lagotia viridis*. Stein (1867) showed that the *Folliculina* of Lamarck (1816), *Lagotia* of Wright (1858), and *Freia* of Claparède & Lachmann (1858), were identical; and thus the prior name *Folliculina* was finally adopted. Wright's species were mostly from Ireland, and it is doubtful if any definite species from England, Scotland or Wales was described by him. Saville Kent (1881-82, pp. 596-601) listed six species, of which only one is definitely British, viz. *F. ampulla* Müller from Falmouth. If, however, we include the Channel Islands then another species, *Parafolliculina hirundo* (Kent, 1882), may be added. Little work was done on the family in Great Britain for the next 50 years. Orton (1930) recorded *Folliculina ampulla* from Plymouth, Fowell (1944) *F. viridis* from Swansea, and Bruce (1935) *F. ampulla* and *F. elegans* from the Isle of Man. The only recent additions to our knowledge of British Folliculinidae are two notes in *Nature* by Das (1947*a*) and by Fowell (1947), and a paper on the biology of some folliculinids by Das (1947*b*) in which a tentative key of the British species is added at the end. Only six British species are listed in the last-mentioned paper, whereas sixteen species are known from the continent (Fauré-Fremiet, 1936*b*) and ten from U.S.A. (Andrews, 1944). Besides the six species already recorded (*Folliculinopsis producta*, *F. ampulla*, *Folliculina simplex*, *F. elegans*, *F. viridis*, and *Parafolliculina hirundo*), two further species, *Folliculinopsis elongata* n.sp. and *F. andrewsi*, can now be added to the list of British species.

#### DESCRIPTIONS OF SPECIES

##### Genus *FOLLICULINOPSIS* Fauré-Fremiet, 1936

The genus *Folliculinopsis* was erected by Fauré-Fremiet (1936*b*) to include those folliculinids which have a multiple macronucleus (i.e. like a string of beads). Before this genus was constituted the different species of *Folliculina* were distinguished with difficulty, as forms with simple and with multiple macronucleus were both included in the same species. Then, again, the delineation of species according to shape, size and colour of the case and of the body led to confusion amongst different workers. Individuals of the same protozoan species do not vary with regard to the simple or multiple character of the nucleus, but Kahl (1932) lists multinucleate forms under three separate genera—*Folliculina*, *Pebrilla* and *Mirofolliculina*—while, on the other hand,

both uni- and multinucleate forms are lumped together in *Folliculina ampulla*. I consider the erection of the genus *Folliculinopsis* as an important step forward in the classification of Folliculinidae.

***Folliculinopsis producta* (Wright) (Fig. 1A)**

*Folliculina producta* Wright, 1858

*Folliculinopsis producta* Fauré-Fremiet, 1936b

DIAGNOSIS

*Size and case*: large size, total length of extended animal 1000–1500  $\mu$ ; tube of case 500–600  $\mu$  long, not more than three times the length of the ampulla and having about eight to fourteen spiral thickenings on its wall. *Nucleus* multiple; consisting of a string of about fourteen beads, extending from near the cytopharynx to the junction of the body with the peduncle in the retracted condition of animal. *Cell-body* with peduncle long and narrow, tapering gradually up to its attachment on the ampulla; cell-body broadening in the proximal half and remaining of the same width up to base of peristomial lobes. *Pigment*: colour of animal deep greenish blue (inky, blue predominating); pigment as granules arranged in definite rows throughout body, alternating with the ciliary bands. *Ciliary bands*: about fifty on body, eight on peduncle, and six on each peristomial lobe. *Peristomial lobes* are slender attenuated ribbons, tapering at the free end but without a sharp point; V-shaped process at junction of lobes; each lobe is about half as long as the tube. *Larva* elongated and vermiform; posterior extremity rounded; size 200  $\times$  75  $\mu$ ; dark blue colour concentrated at oral extremity.

LOCALITY

Plymouth (first record); Cullercoats (Das, 1947b); attached to Algae and dead *Pecten* shells from sublittoral region.

REMARKS

See remarks on the next species.

***Folliculinopsis elongata* n.sp. (Fig. 1B)**

*Folliculina producta* Wright, 1858, *in part*

*Folliculinopsis producta* Wright var. *elongata* Das, 1947b

DIAGNOSIS

*Size and case*: gigantic size, length 2000–3000  $\mu$  when fully extended; shape of case resembles a hockey-stick; tube 1000–15000  $\mu$  long and not less than four times the length of the ampulla; eighteen to thirty spiral thickenings on wall of tube. *Nucleus* multiple; consisting of a string of about sixteen to twenty beads. *Cell-body* attached to ampulla by a distinct narrow peduncle which extends beyond the ampulla in the relaxed condition; body fairly broad at free end. *Pigment*: colour of animal deep bluish green (green predomi-

nating); pigment granules arranged uniformly in rows alternating with ciliary bands throughout body. *Ciliary bands*: about fifty on body, eight on peduncle and six or less on peristomial lobes. *Peristomial lobes* are slender attenuated

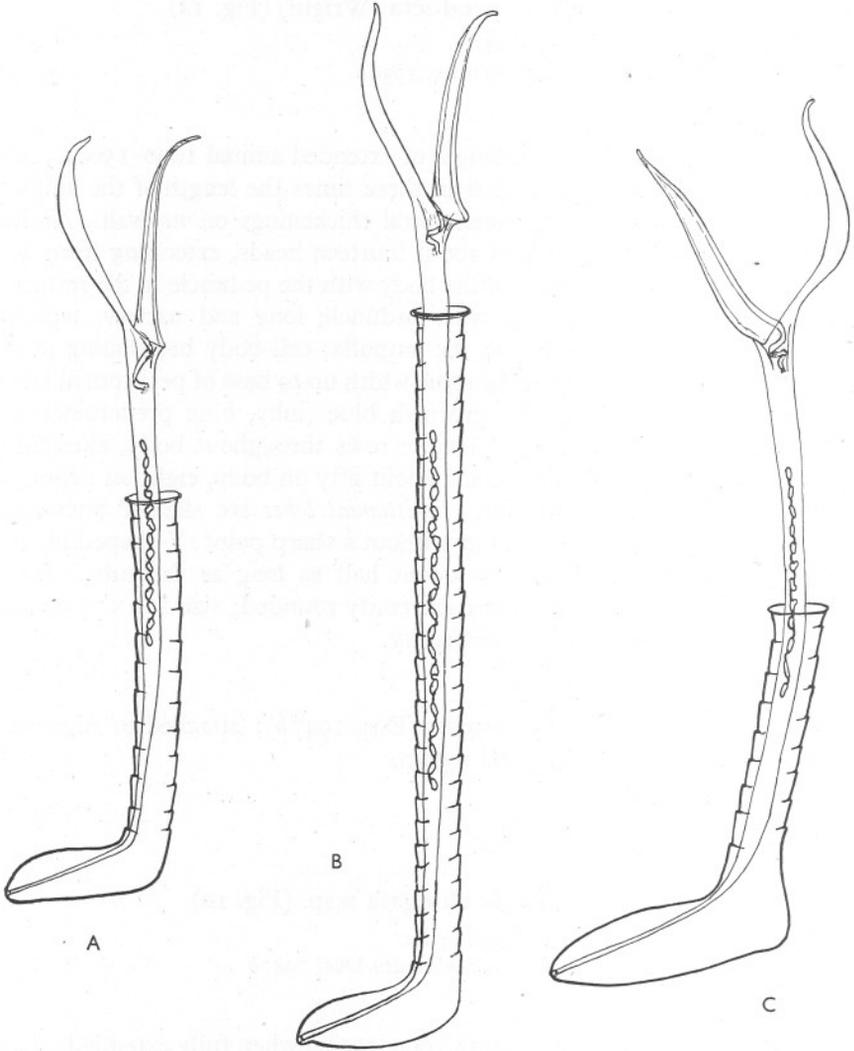


Fig. 1. A, *Folliculinopsis producta* (Wright),  $\times 100$ . B, *F. elongata* n.sp.,  $\times 70$ .  
C, *F. andrewsi* (Hadži),  $\times 150$ .

ribbons, tapering but without a sharp point at tip; V-shaped process at junction of the two lobes much exaggerated; each lobe is less than one-third the length of the tube. *Larva* pear-shaped with posterior end bluntly pointed; size  $300 \times 150 \mu$ ; dark opaque green colour at oral extremity; secretion of case

by attached, elongated larva with three regions—a head, a neck, and an elongated body; the spiral thickenings of the tube are formed by a special spiral band of cilia on the neck of the larva.

#### LOCALITY

Cullercoats (Das, 1947*b*); attached to tests of *Ciona intestinalis* and to various algae.

#### REMARKS

The present species was described by me (1947*b*) as *Folliculinopsis producta* Wright var. *elongata*. Since then I have had the opportunity of examining large numbers of specimens resembling *F. producta*, both at Cullercoats and at Plymouth. I can now definitely state that the differences tabulated by me (1947*b*, p. 443) are of a constant character. For example, I examined over a hundred specimens of *F. producta* at Plymouth, and not one of them showed more than fourteen or less than eight spiral thickenings of the case, while almost all the Cullercoats specimens had eighteen to thirty spiral thickenings, the average number being twenty-four. The *F. elongata* forms have been found only at Cullercoats, and I believe this to be a definitely northern species. The differences between *F. producta* and the new species *F. elongata* are even more marked than those between *F. producta* and *F. andrewsi*, the species described next, which has only five to eight turns of the spiral. It may be pointed out here that the gigantic *F. elongata* has not been reported by Andrews (1942, 1944) from U.S.A., and that some of the sketches of Kent (1882) which resemble this species, are superimposed tubes of two successive larvae and not one individual lorica. Both *producta* and *elongata* are multinucleate and thus they must be placed in the genus *Folliculinopsis*.

#### **Folliculinopsis andrewsi** (Hadži) (Fig. 1C)

*Folliculina producta* Wright, 1858, *in part*

*F. producta* Andrews, 1923

*Metafolliculina andrewsi* Hadži, 1938

*Folliculinopsis producta* Andrews, 1942

#### DIAGNOSIS

*Size and case*: fully extended animal 600–1000  $\mu$  long; case shaped like a sock; tube a little longer than ampulla and having five to eight spiral thickenings on its walls. *Nucleus* multiple; string of about twelve beads. *Cell-body* with peduncle long, narrow and tapering proximally, body ribbon-shaped when extended and about double the length of the tube. *Pigment*: greenish blue colour (much lighter than in *F. producta*): pigment granules uniformly distributed in rows. *Ciliary bands*: peduncle with nine to ten, body with 100, and peristomial lobes with seven to eight bands. *Peristomial lobes* are elongated, ribbon-shaped, tapering distally into a pointed but not sharp tip;

each lobe is only a little shorter than the tube. *Larva* elongated, vermiform, size  $200 \times 50 \mu$ ; posterior end rounded; bluish pigment concentrated at anterior end.

#### LOCALITY

Plymouth and Cullercoats (first record for Great Britain); attached to dead *Pecten* shells from 3 fathoms, and on test of *Ascidiella aspersa*.

#### REMARKS

The *Folliculina* described by Andrews (1923, 1942) was referred to Hadži (1938), who described it as a species distinct from *Folliculinopsis producta* Wright, and named it *Metafolliculina andrewsi*. As this species is multinucleate the name *Metafolliculina* should give place to *Folliculinopsis*. I have compared the specimens from Plymouth and Cullercoats, with those described by Andrews and Hadži and have no hesitation in placing them in this species.

If we take the test or case alone into consideration, the present three species of *Folliculinopsis* appear to form a progressive evolutionary series. *F. andrewsi* is the simplest with only five to eight spiral turns on the tube; *F. producta* comes next with its eight to fourteen spirals; and finally the *F. elongata* tube is not only enormous in length, but has eighteen to thirty spiral turns on its walls. Similarly, the number of beads in the nucleus also shows progressive increase.

#### *Folliculinopsis ampulla* (Müller) (Fig. 2)

*Folliculina ampulla* Müller, 1854, *in part*

*Folliculinopsis ampulla* Fauré-Fremiet, 1936b

#### DIAGNOSIS

*Size and case*: length of extended animal about  $600 \mu$ ; case  $300-500 \mu$  long and usually ridged at its mouth; ampulla flask-shaped, swollen, and large; tube plain and much shorter than ampulla. *Nucleus* multiple; string of twelve to fourteen beads. *Cell-body* with peduncle short and thin, body proper stout in middle and narrowed proximally as well as distally. *Pigment*: blue-green in colour. *Ciliary bands* not known. *Peristomial lobes* of two equal lobes, each leaf-like with short pointed tips. *Larva*: characters unverified.

#### LOCALITY

Plymouth (Orton, 1930); Port Erin (Bruce, 1935); Cullercoats (Bull, unpublished record, Dove Marine Laboratory); attached to submerged plates and tests of *Ascidiella aspersa*.

#### REMARKS

There is no gainsaying the fact that many different species of Folliculinidae have been recorded as *Folliculina ampulla* by past workers. A look at Fig. 2 will show that Laackmann's sketches (1910) depict four different species; similarly Stein's figures (1867) of *F. ampulla* show specimens of at least

two species; finally, Müller's sketches (1854) of his smaller specimens (200  $\mu$ ) of *F. ampulla* really depict the separate species *F. simplex* Dons. I have made a thorough search for *F. ampulla* both at Plymouth and at Cullercoats, but have failed to collect a single specimen of this species. Fauré-Fremiet (1936a) also states that he could not find them on the Breton coast. I have a strong suspicion that the species *Folliculinopsis ampulla* (multinucleate) is really non-existent. The uninucleate *F. ampulla* of past workers will on examination turn out to be *F. simplex* or *F. viridis*; while the multinucleate forms, named as *F. ampulla* in the past, would probably be *F. andrewsi*, or *F. producta*. However, I leave the abolition of this species to future workers.

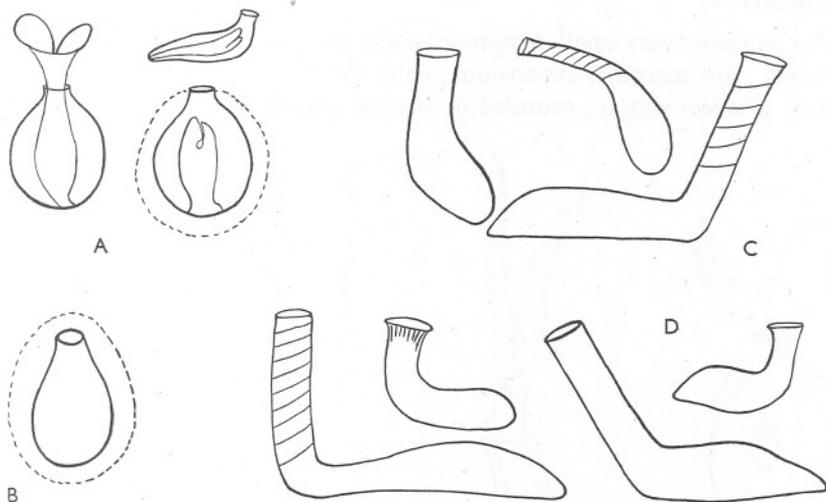


Fig. 2. *Folliculina ampulla* of various authors, some of which may be true *Folliculinopsis ampulla* (Müller). A, *Folliculina ampulla* Müller, the uninucleate small variety,  $\times 125$ . B, *F. simplex* Dons, as sketched by Dons, to show that it is the same species as that sketched and named *F. ampulla* by Müller,  $\times 125$ . C, *F. ampulla*: cases as sketched by Stein: there are at least two species represented here,  $\times 50$ . D, *F. ampulla*: cases as sketched by Laackmann: all four of them appear to belong to different species,  $\times 50$ .

#### Genus *FOLLICULINA* Lamarck, 1816

The genus should now be restricted to those forms that show a simple macronucleus and a single case (not divided by a constriction). The genera listed by Kahl (1932, 1933)—*Folliculina*, *Metafolliculina*, *Mirofolliculina*, *Parafolliculina*, *Pseudofolliculina* and *Pebrilla*—were founded by various workers and based mainly on the characters of the case. It has been shown by Fauré-Fremiet (1936b) and Das (1947b) that the case alone, when considered as a generic or even a specific character, causes endless confusion, if it is not taken in conjunction with other anatomical structures. The present genus *Folliculina*, from which the multinucleate forms have been removed, presents a well-knit group of species, and no useful purpose will be served by splitting

it up further. All the multinucleate forms can be included in *Folliculinopsis*, while the species with a 'double' case (divided into chambers), but simple nucleus, may be put in the genus *Parafolliculina*.

### *Folliculina simplex* Dons (Fig. 3A)

*Folliculina ampulla* Müller, 1854, *in part*

*F. elegans* Stein, 1867

*F. boltoni* Kent, 1882

*F. lentus* Henneguy, 1884

*F. simplex* Dons, 1912

#### DIAGNOSIS

*Size and case*: very small, maximum about  $200\mu$  long; case patulous, rounded or ovoid, with marginal expansions; tube short or absent and without lipped funnel. *Nucleus* simple; rounded in outline, and situated in the proximal half

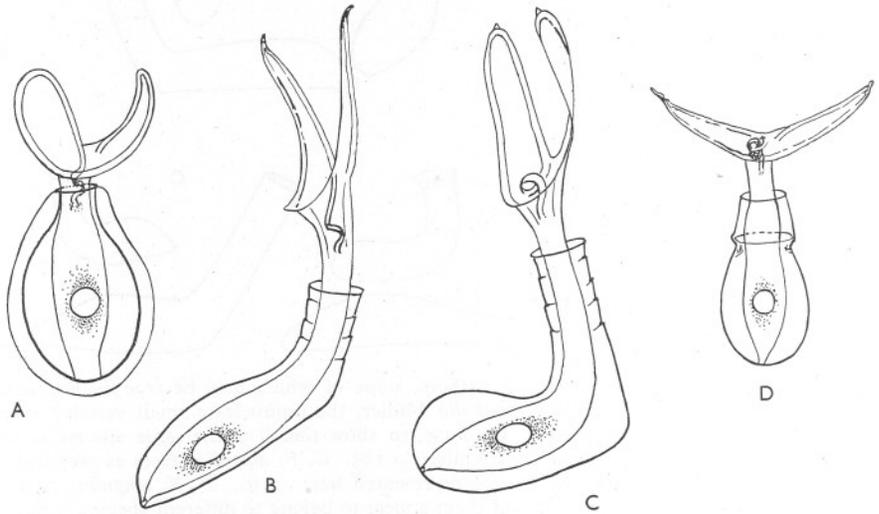


Fig. 3. A, *Folliculina simplex* Dons,  $\times 200$ . B, *F. elegans* Clap. & Lach.,  $\times 125$ . C, *F. viridis* Wright,  $\times 175$ . D, *Parafolliculina hirundo* (Kent),  $\times 200$ .

of the body. *Cell-body* with peduncle absent; body short and cylindrical; attached by a broad base to the case. *Pigment*: body light bluish green generally and bottle-green only about the nucleus. *Ciliary bands*: about twenty-four on body and five on the peristomial lobes. *Peristomial lobes*: short and broad, the two appearing as one bilobed structure; left lobe larger and rounded and right one smaller and narrow throughout. *Larva* cylindrical and elongated,  $150 \times 25\mu$ ; narrowed and truncated anteriorly.

## LOCALITY

Cullercoats (Das, 1947*a, b*); attached to tests of *Ciona intestinalis* and to submerged plates in aquarium.

## REMARKS

On comparing the figures and descriptions of Müller (1854), Stein (1867), Kent (1882), and Henneguy (1884), it appears that *Folliculina elegans*, *F. boltoni*, and *F. lentus*, are all one and the same species, and that they are identical with *F. simplex* Dons, 1912. As *F. simplex* is the first well-defined species, the later name by Dons is retained.

**Folliculina elegans** Clap. & Lach. (Fig. 3B)

*Folliculina elegans* Clap. & Lach., 1858

*F. ampulla* Laackmann, 1910, in part

## DIAGNOSIS

*Size and case*: fairly large, extended animal about 600  $\mu$  long; case about 450  $\mu$ ; ampulla 250  $\mu$ ; tube shorter than ampulla (150–200  $\mu$ ) and with three turns of the spiral thickening; ampulla lies horizontally on substratum and the tube placed at an angle of about 45° (never 90°); funnel with expanded collar. *Nucleus* simple; ovoid or oblong, situated at basal end of body. *Cell-body* with short thin peduncle; proximal half of extended animal stouter than distal half. *Pigment*: body of light green colour generally; green pigment concentrated around nucleus. *Ciliary bands*: about forty on the body and five to six on the peristomial lobes. *Peristomial lobes*: flat, ribbon-shaped, tapering distally into a sharp tip. *Larva*: elongated, vermiform; 300  $\times$  50  $\mu$ ; oral ciliary disk broad and well-marked; after attachment the larva puts forth a long proboscis-like projection, which helps in making the tube of the case.

## LOCALITY

Port Erin (Bruce, 1935); Plymouth (first record); Cullercoats (first record); attached to green algae and *Flustra*.

## REMARKS

One must be very careful in distinguishing the three species: *Folliculina elegans* Clap. & Lach., *F. viridis* Wright, and *F. aculeata* Clap. & Lach. All three are uninucleate species, all of them have a comparatively short tube which is never longer than the ampulla, and all have only three spiral turns of the thickening on the tube. Looking at the case, the ampulla of *F. viridis* is the stoutest, although this is the smallest of the three species, and the tube is always shorter in length than the ampulla. The ampulla of *F. elegans* is probably the longest with the tube again shorter than ampulla; while the case of *F. aculeata* is characterized by the ampulla and tube being of about the same length. The peristomial lobes are, however, the main differentiating structures.

In *F. viridis* each lobe is leaf-like, non-acuminate and ends abruptly in a short, sharp tip; in *F. elegans* each lobe is ribbon-shaped, tapering, and ends in a somewhat elongated point; while in *F. aculeata* each lobe is acuminate and ends in an accentuated pointed tip. The three species thus form a progressive evolutionary series, so far as the peristomial lobes are concerned. The colour may be distinctive, but I have always found it difficult to distinguish them merely by colour, as variations are quite common in all three species.

**Folliculina viridis** Wright (Fig. 3C)

*Folliculina ampulla* Müller, 1854, *in part*

*F. viridis* Wright, 1862

*F. ampulla* Laackmann, 1910, *in part* (one of his sketches)

DIAGNOSIS

*Size and case*: smaller than *F. elegans*, not more than  $400\ \mu$  when extended; case only  $250\ \mu$  in length; tube a little more than half the length of the stout quadrangular ampulla, and usually at right angles to it. *Nucleus* simple; large, ovoid, and situated at about middle of ampulla. *Cell-body* stout in the middle and tapering at both ends; peduncle short and narrow. *Pigment*: yellow-green colour (yellow predominating); pigment more concentrated around nucleus. *Ciliary bands*: about fifty on the body, and five to six on the peristomial lobes. *Peristomial lobes* flat, leaf-like, with tips rounded; each lobe terminates abruptly in a sharp point of ectoplasm. *Larva* elongated, vermiform, about  $200 \times 40\ \mu$ ; colour yellowish with yellow-green pigment concentrated near the oral ciliary disk; as in *F. elegans* the larva after attachment puts forth a long proboscis-like projection.

LOCALITY

Swansea (Fowell, 1944); Plymouth (first record); Cullercoats (first record). Attached to various green algae.

REMARKS

*F. viridis* can be easily confused with *F. elegans*; but, as mentioned by Das (1947*b*), the smaller size, yellow-green colour, erect tube, quadrangular ampulla, and non-acuminate peristomial lobes, should suffice to distinguish it from *F. elegans*.

Genus *PARAFOLLICULINA* Dons, 1914

**Parafolliculina hirundo** (Kent) (Fig. 3D)

*Folliculina hirundo* Kent, 1882

DIAGNOSIS

*Size and case*: very small size, about  $180\ \mu$  when extended; case horizontal and  $130\ \mu$  long; annular constriction at base of free end of the case (i.e. a short chamber, the neck, is present). *Nucleus* simple; ovoidal, situated at about the

middle of the cell-body. *Cell-body* short and cylindrical; peduncle absent, attachment by a broad base. *Pigment*: very feebly coloured; bluish green; colour somewhat dark around nucleus. *Ciliary bands*: about twenty on the body and five on the peristomial lobes. *Peristomial lobes* narrow, tapering, nearly symmetrical and lying far apart, so as to create the impression of a single flat T-shaped structure. *Larva*: resembles that of *F. simplex*, except that it is broadly rounded anteriorly.

## LOCALITY

Channel Islands (Kent, 1882).

## REMARKS

I have not been able to find specimens of this species either at Plymouth or at Cullercoats. It is common on the Breton coast of France and should occur on the south coast of England. The distinctive collar-like band at the free end of the case, and the symmetrical peristomial lobes should immediately distinguish it from the similar *F. simplex*.

## KEY TO BRITISH FOLLICULINIDAE

(After Das, 1947*b*)

Macronucleus consisting of a string of beads

Tube not longer than ampulla *Folliculinopsis ampulla* (Müller)

Tube longer than ampulla and spirally ridged

Tube with five to eight spirals; maximum size of animal 1000  $\mu$ ; peristomial lobes a little shorter than tube. *F. andrewsi* (Hadži)

Tube with eight to fourteen spirals; maximum size 1500  $\mu$ ; peristomial lobes about half as long as tube. *F. producta* (Wright)

Tube with eighteen to thirty spirals; maximum size up to 3000  $\mu$ ; peristomial lobes less than one-third the tube. *F. elongata* n.sp.

Macronucleus simple

Case divided by annular constriction *Parafolliculina hirundo* (Kent)

Case entire, not constricted

Tube absent; maximum size 200  $\mu$ ; peristomial lobes asymmetrical, short and broad. *Folliculina simplex* Dons

Tube shorter than ampulla, with three spirals, and at 135° to ampulla; maximum size 600  $\mu$ ; peristomial lobes tapering. *F. elegans* Clap. & Lach.

Tube shorter than ampulla, but at 90° to it; maximum size 400  $\mu$ ; peristomial lobes rounded at tip. *F. viridis* Wright

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## SUMMARY

A brief résumé is given of the work done on British Folliculinidae up to the present time.

Descriptions follow of eight British species, many of which are revised accounts based on personal observations.

A new species, *Folliculinopsis elongata*, is described.

A revised key for the identification of British Folliculinidae is given.

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