Acrosorium minus  
(Sonder) Kylin

A SPECIES WITH FEW RECORDS

Techniques needed and shape

Classification
Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Ceramiales; Family: Delesseriaceae
Tribe: Nitophylloideae; Group: Cryptopleura

*Descriptive name
fingertip film-plant

Features
Plants are red, about 30mm tall, with alternate branching from blade edges, in one flat surface with fingertip-like endings

Special requirements
1. View plants microscopically to find:
   - growth occurs by divisions of cells along the margins of blades
   - microscopic veins are present but are not all interconnected and there are no large mid-line veins
   - tetrasporangial patches are rounded and found in upper branches
2. If possible, cut a slice across a blade through a sporangial patch (sorus) to view the tetrasporangia on two sides of the sorus and the blades often of a single cell layer

Usual Habitat
Swan R., Fremantle and Penguin I., W. Australia

Similar Species
similar to Hymenena multipartita, but there are no large mid-line veins in Acrosorium and the blades are largely of a single cell layer. It differs from Acrosorium ciliolatum in broader fronds that do not curl at the tips. The correct identity of the species awaits further research when more complete material is available

Description in the Benthic Flora
Part IIID, pages 147-148

Details of Anatomy

Views of Acrosorium minus of different magnifications, stained with aniline blue
1. showing a blade edge with dividing marginal cells (arrowed) (A18216, slide 10071)
2. a surface view of a blade showing microscopic veins (arrowed) (A18216 slide 10071)
3. slice across a blade through a sporangial patch (sorus, so) showing young tetrasporangia on both sides, and a part of the blade with a single row of cells (arrowed) (A6052 slide 18732)

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, November 2005
4. **Acrosorium minus** (Sonder) Kylin, (A18216). An old specimen from “Fremantle”

Two views of *Acrosorium minus*, (A68350), specimens stained with aniline blue and viewed with dark field microscopy to emphasize the cellular structures and tetrasporangial patches (sori, arrowed)

5. slide 18225
6. slide 18731

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