Techniques needed and plant shape

**Classification**

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Ulvales; Family: Ulvaceae

**Descriptive name**

false *Enteromorpha*

**Features**

1. plants pale to dark green, in *tufts* to 50mm tall, of thin threads, growing *in winter*
2. each plant grows from a *basal pad*

**Special requirements**

1. view the irregularly arranged *small cells* (5-8μm across)
2. chloroplasts are *single* and *central* in each cell and have a *single* pyrenoid (difficult to see microscopically)
3. threads are cylindrical and *hollow*  

**Occurrences**

from Pt Lincoln to mid NSW coast (and probably more widespread according to Womersley)

**Usual Habitat**

in the upper or mid- *intertidal* on rock, in calm situations

**Similar Species**

*Enteromorpha* species (especially *E. ralfsii, E. paradoxa*) but cells of *Blidingia* are very small, and threads are anchored to the substrate by a *pad of tissue* (not by rhizoids)

**Description in the Benthic Flora**

Part I, pages 137, 139, 150

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1. specimens of *Blidingia minima* (slide 7502) stained blue and viewed microscopically
2. whole plant showing tufts arising from a basal pad
3. tip of a branch and another torn across to show its cylindrical, hollow structure. Both illustrate the relatively small cells present
4. cell detail showing the irregular arrangement, and central pyrenoid of the chloroplast of each cell.

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used

Blidingia minima (Naegeli ex Kützing) Kylin, (A13282b) Outer Harbour, S Australia in the upper intertidal on the breakwater

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
“Algae Revealed” R N Balock, S Australian State Herbarium, October 2003, additions made June 2006