**Bryopsis australis** Sonder

**Techniques needed and shape**

**Classification**
Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Bryopsidaceae

**Descriptive name**
delicate shining green tufts

**Features**
1. plants are bright green, **shining** when dry, 10 – 40mm tall,
2. **several** main upright stalks(axes) arise from a mass of branched rhizoids
3. ultimate branches (ramuli) are in a **single** row or in **2 rows** usually near the tips with the stalks denuded below

**Variations**
**additional** ultimate branches (ramuli) may occur **between** the more uniform rows

**Special requirements:**
1. view the rarely-divided (**coenocytic**) filaments microscopically
2. measure the stalks (axes): they should be about **0.5mm** across

**Occurrrences**
from SW W. Australia and Kangaroo I., S. Australia

**Usual Habitat**
on intertidal rock

**Similar Species**
*Bryopsis gemellipara* has similar branching patterns, but is larger with thicker axes

**Description in the Benthic Flora**
Part I, pages 283-285

**Details of Anatomy**

1-3. Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Bryopsis australis* (A50705) from Rottnest I., W Australia

1. dense apical tufts with radial branching and, below, one-sided branching (arrowed).
2. tip of a side branch with mainly 2-sided branching of ramuli but also occasional additional ramuli interposed between the 2 rows. The ramuli all point upwards.
3. detail of the 2 opposite rows of ramuli on an axis, characteristic of the species.

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

“Algae Revealed” R N Balduck, S Australian State Herbarium, July 2005
Bryopsis australis Sonder
(AS0705) from Rottnest I.,
W. Australia
4. whole plants
5. a preserved, (bleached)
specimen, magnified to
show the basal tangled
mass of rhizoids from
which many upright main
stalks (axes) arise bearing
1- and 2-sided ultimate
branches (ramuli)

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