

Techniques needed and plant shape



Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Bryopsidaceae

*Descriptive name

slender bryopsis

Features

plants, green, tufted, from 10mm to 150mm tall

Special requirements



1. view the branching pattern under a microscope. Plants have a *slender*, filamentous main stalk (axis) 150-350µm in diameter
2. side branches and ultimate branches (ramuli) arise *radially* from the main stalks
3. chloroplasts are densely packed with a prominent central spot (pyrenoid)
4. there are *no cross walls* separating axes and branches (a coenocytic condition)

Occurrences

only known from American River, Kangaroo Island, on a buoy and possibly from Port MacDonnell, S. Australia

Usual Habitat

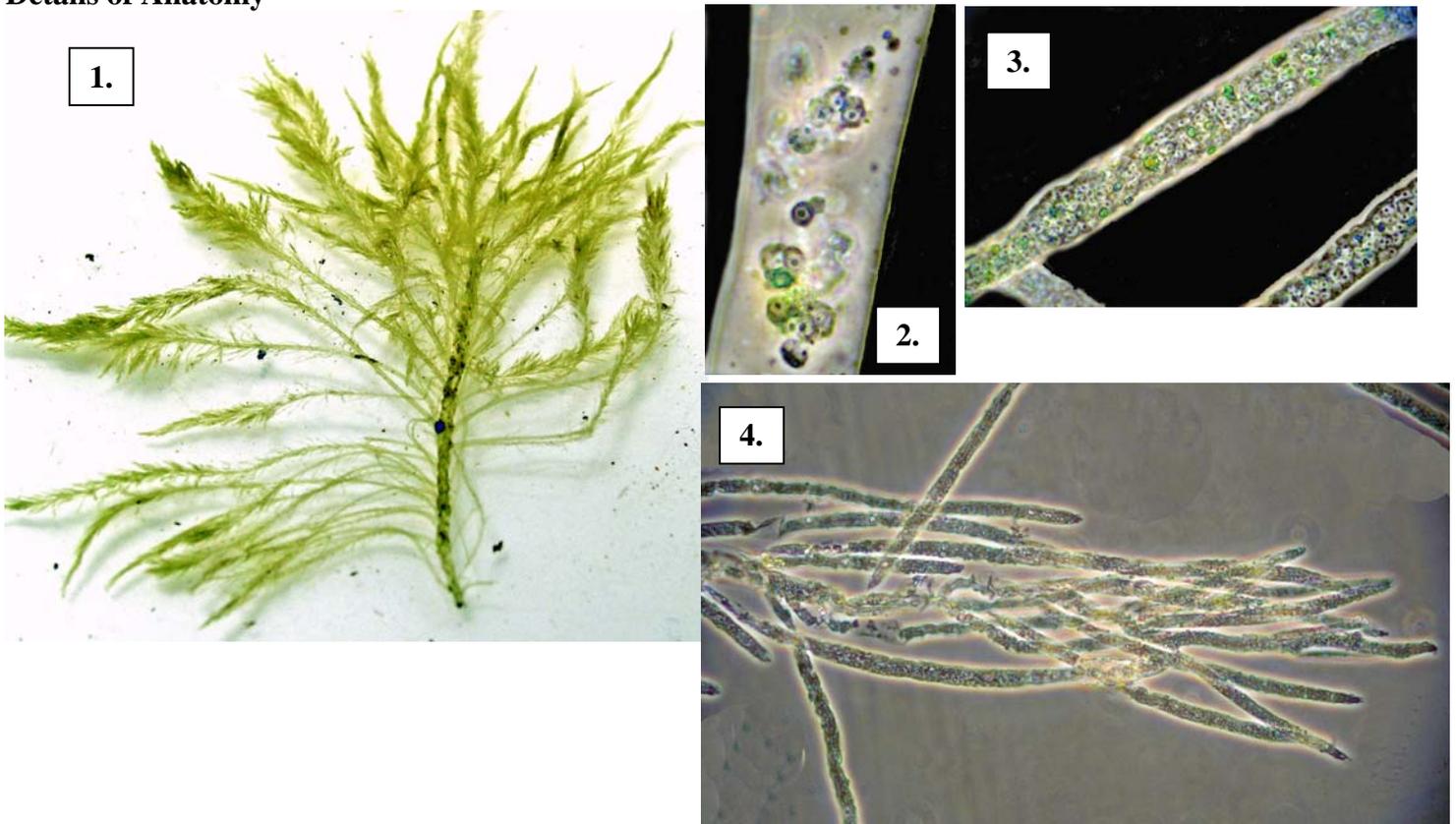
on hard substrates?

Similar Species

Bryopsis macraildii is also a slender species but has wider stalks (0.5-1.0mm in diameter) and shorter ramuli

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 276-277, 279

Details of Anatomy



Specimens of *Bryopsis minor* (A51541)

1. a whole plant, 20mm tall, showing the radial branching pattern and delicate ultimate branches (ramuli) in tufts
- 2-4. preserved (bleached) specimens viewed under phase contrast microscopy (slide 43)
 2. highly magnified view of chloroplasts showing the prominent centre spots (pyrenoids)
 3. view of filaments showing the lack of cross-walls (coenocytic condition) and tightly packed chloroplasts
 4. branch apex showing the radial pattern of ramuli

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, February 2005

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Two plants of *Bryopsis minor* Womersley from S Australia

5. from American River inlet, Kangaroo Island (A4124)
6. from Pt. MacDonnell (A54041) showing contrasting size and habit

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