**Bryopsis vestita** J. Agardh

**Techniques needed and shape**

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

*Descriptive name*
- dense green tufts; §tufted bryopsis

**Features**
1. plants bright green, densely tufted, 50-250mm tall
2. many upright stalks (axes) arise from basal branching rhizoids
3. side branches and ultimate branches (ramuli) arise in an irregular radial pattern
4. side stalks may be denuded below

**Variations**
- lower side branches may be denuded except at their tips, giving the whole main axis a lance-shaped outline

**Special requirements:**
1. view the rarely-divided (coenocytic) filaments microscopically
2. measure the main stalks (axes): they should be 0.5 – 1.0mm across
3. view the ramuli near the stalk tips to see the characteristic radial arrangement

**Occurrences**
- from Cape Northumberland, S. Australia to Wilsons Promontory, Victoria, and around Tasmania

**Usual Habitat**
- usually on rock in the lower intertidal or shallow water on rough water coasts

**Similar Species**
- similar in size to *Bryopsis gemellipara*, but that species has a 2-sided branching pattern

**Description in the Benthic Flora**
- Part I, pages 280-283

**Details of Anatomy**

Preserved (bleached) and colourised specimens of *Bryopsis vestita* (A39538) from Cape Northumberland, S. Australia.

1. dense branching at the tip of a stalk (axis).
2. detail of radial pattern of ultimate branches (ramuli) on a side branch.
3. characteristic masses of ramuli densely wrapping the branches except for some lower side branches (arrowed) which are denuded at their bases.
Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used.

Two magnifications of *Bryopsis vestita* J. Agardh (A39538) from Cape Northumberland, S. Australia, showing the dense ultimate branches (ramuli) forming terminal tufts that give the plant a feathery appearance.