

**Techniques needed and plant shape**

**Classification**

Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Ceramiales;  
Family: Ceramiaceae; Tribe: Callithamnieae  
red tufts

**\*Descriptive name**

**Features**



plants red-brown, densely tufted, to 200mm tall, with prominent main branches (axes) and stubby side ones

**Special requirements**



view microscopically to find:

- main branches (axes) **forked** (dichotomous), consisting of threads (filaments) of naked (**ecorticate**), **elongate** cells and shorter side branches, 6-10 cells long
- **stalkless** tetrasporangia divided tetrahedrally on the **inner** (adaxial) sides of branch tips
- **twinned** carposporophytes, the product of fertilisation, of **single** and **rounded** carposporangial masses (gonimolobes), on main branches, without wrappings (involucre)

**Occurrences**

**Usual Habitat**

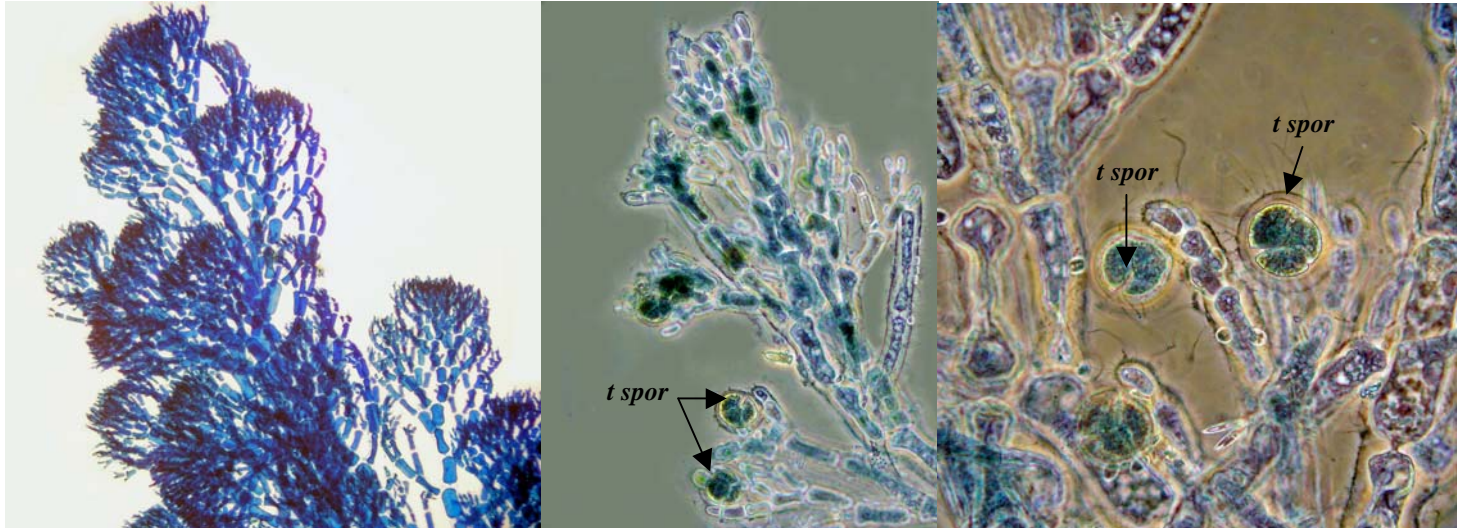
**Similar Species**

Robe, S Australia and possibly Port Arthur, Tasmania

growing (epiphytic) on *Caulerpa brownii*, *Laurencia* and *Jania* in shallow water  
*Callithamnion circinnatum*, also densely tufted, but that species has hooked short side branches in lower parts

**Description in the Benthic Flora** Part IIIC, page 246-248

**Details of Anatomy**



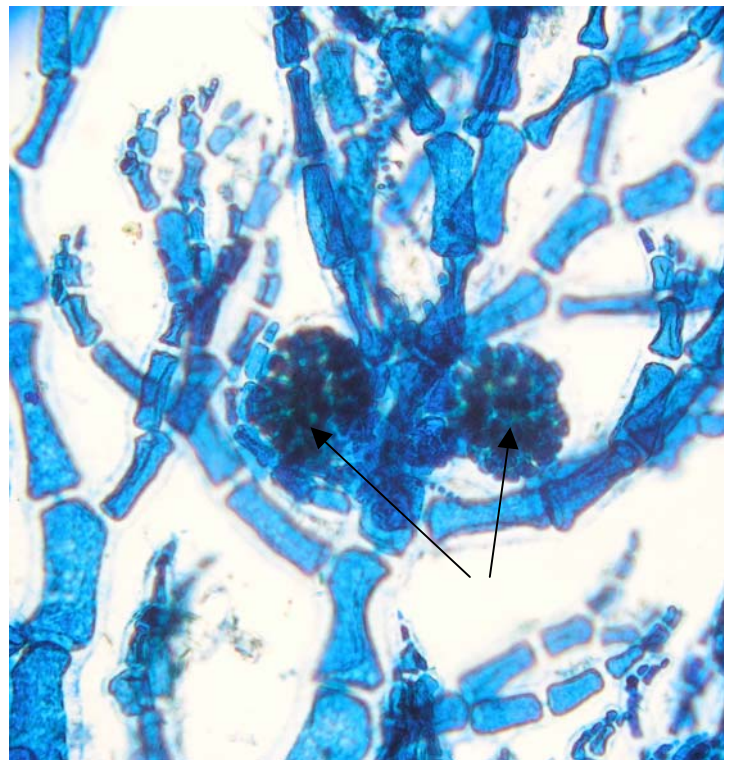
1.

2.

3.

*Callithamnion confertum* stained blue and viewed microscopically

1. (A32685 slide 1582) dense tufted branching pattern near the tips
- 2, 3. (A57739 slide 10459)
  2. plant tips and position of tetrasporangia (*t spor*)
  3. detail of **stalkless** tetrasporangia on the inside of branch endings



4. *Callithamnion confertum* Womersley  
A32685
5. (A32685 slide 1582) female plant with products of fertilisation (carposporophytes) stained blue and viewed microscopically showing **twinned** carposporophytes (*carps*) of rounded masses of carposporangia lacking wrappings (involucre)