



MICRO
PLANT



tubular



flat-branched

Techniques needed

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Caulerpaceae

*Descriptive name

mini herring-bone Caulerpa

Features

1. plant green to only **100mm tall**
2. upright stalks arise from a **very slender, naked** horizontal runner
3. ultimate branches (ramuli) are **cylindrical** (terete) and **alternate** along the stalks

Variations

the ramuli may be curved upwards and taper

Special requirements



1. view the tiny, **cylindrical** side branches (ramuli) that **alternate** in one flat surface along 2 sides of upright branches (axes)
2. the ramuli are only 1.5-2.5mm long, and up to **0.5mm wide**

Occurrences

Usual Habitat

apparently rare, in Spencer and St Vincent gulfs, and Pt Phillip Heads Victoria
a deep water species (13-40m)

Similar Species

distinctive because of its small size and narrow ramuli

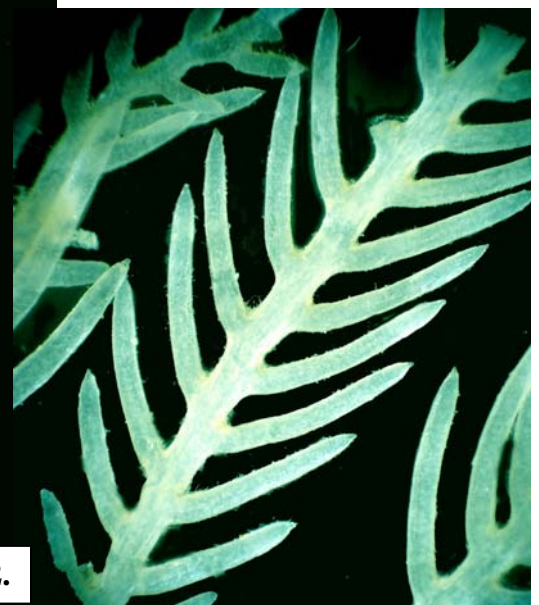
Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 256-257, 259

Details of Anatomy



1.

1,2. Two magnifications of a preserved (bleached) and coloured specimen of *Caulerpa alternans* (A33416), from Troubridge Point off Edithburgh, S. Australia, showing the alternating narrow ramuli in two rows, widely spaced in some parts of the branch.



2.



Caulerpa alternans Womersley, (A33416), from Troubridge Point off Edithburgh, S. Australia