Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification
Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Caulerpaceae

*Descriptive name
spiny caulerpa; "Brown’s caulerpa”

Features
1. plants green to dark green, 30-400mm tall
3. upright parts arise from a horizontal runner covered with short, soft spines
4. upright parts cylindrical, = 6mm in diameter, simple or forked 1-2 times
5. upright parts densely covered in short, soft “spines” (= ultimate branches or ramuli) forked at their bases

Variations
branches may be more robust on rough water coasts

Special requirements
view the “spines” (ramuli) on the upright parts to find the forking at the base

Occurrences
from S W Australia to Victoria, Tasmania, Lord Howe I., and New Zealand on hard surfaces just below low water level to 42m deep, often in large patches

Usual Habitat

Similar Species
the species has distinctive plant and ramuli shapes.

Description in the Benthic Flora
Part I, pages 261, 263, 264

Details of Anatomy

1. 2.  

1, 2. Caulerpa brownii from Corny Point, S Yorke Peninsula, S Australia
1. specimen approximately life size, showing the spine covered runner with rhizoids beneath and upright branches with rows of forked, spiny ultimate branches (ramuli).
2. magnified view with the basal forking of a ramulus arrowed

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
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“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, September 2003
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*Caulerpa brownii* (C Agardh) Enlicher from S Australia

3. at Port Elliot, growing in a characteristic mass in shallow water
4. detached plant(s) from Port Noarlunga, showing a spiny runner and mass of upright branches covered in spiny ultimate branches (ramuli)