



MACRO
PLANT



Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Caulerpaceae

***Descriptive name**

sawtooth caulerpa; § fishbone caulerpa

Features

1. plant dark green to 40-150mm tall
2. upright branches (axes) arise from a *slender, naked* runner
3. ultimate branches (ramuli) *slightly* flattened, widest *just above* where they attach *oppositely* along 2 sides of axes, *almost touching at the base*

Variations

occasional odd ramuli occur irregularly along the upright branches and axes may branch 1-2 times

Special requirements



ultimate branches (ramuli) are 1-2mm long and 0.2-0.5mm across

Usual Habitat

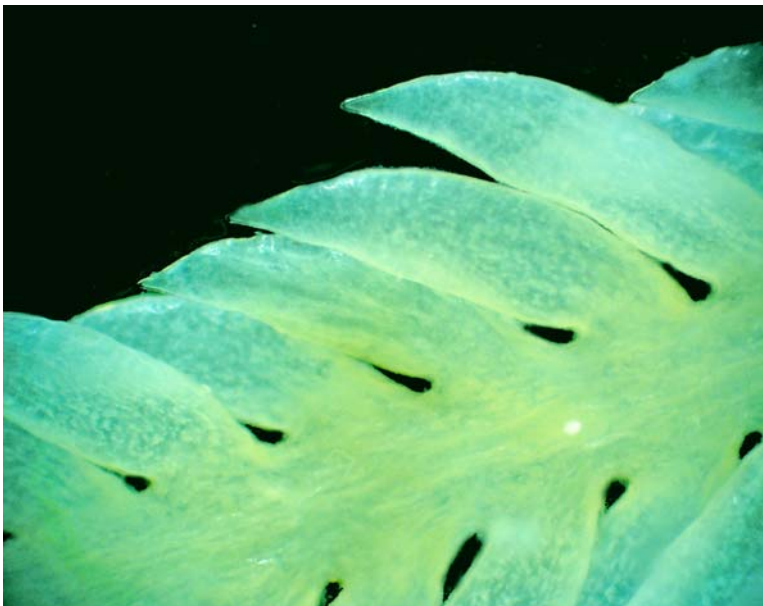
probably confined to southern W. Australia, in sand or on rock in shallow water

Similar Species

§ *Caulerpa scalpelliformis*, but this species has flatter ramuli that *alternate* along the axes

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 257, 258-259

Details of Anatomy



Two views of a preserved (bleached) and colourised specimen of *Caulerpa distichophylla* (A50590), showing the compressed, crowded, opposite ramuli arising in 2 rows along the flattened, upright branch (axis). Ramuli are constricted at their bases and have a terminal point

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
§ name used in Edgar, G. *Australian Marine Life, 2nd Ed.* (2008)
“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, June 2005



Two magnifications of *Caulerpa distichophylla*, (A51296) from Whitford Beach, 24km N of Perth, W. Australia, showing the sawtooth arrangement of ramuli along the axes

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