Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Caulerpaceae

*Descriptive name

feather caulerpa; §long-filament caulerpa

Features

1. plant dark green, 150-500mm tall
2. upright branches rarely branching several times arise from a coarse, naked runner
3. ultimate-branches (ramuli) linear, curved upwards, usually in 5 rows along the upright branches

Variations

1. there may be 4-6 rows of ramuli on the upright branches
2. a slenderer form, crispate, has shorter more incurved ramuli irregularly arranged along the upright branches.

Special requirements

1. view thin ultimate branches (ramuli) up to 15mm long and about 0.5mm thick
2. ramuli are separated by about the width of a ramulus, but this is difficult to see as they are crowded together
3. to identify the 2 forms, find whether the ramuli are in regular rows (f. longifolia), or irregularly arranged (f. crispata)

Occurrences

1. f. longifolia is found from near the Head of the Bight to Victoria and Tasman
2. f. crispata: is found from near Perth to Victoria and Tasmania

Usual Habitat

on rough water coasts, in rock pools, to 40m deep

Similar Species

superficially like Caulerpa cliftonii, but the ramuli in that species are branched up to 5 times

Description in the Benthic Flora

Part I, pages 260-263

Details of Anatomy

A preserved, (bleached) specimen of Caulerpa longifolia f. longifolia (A1047), from Robe S. Australia.
1. near the tips of branches, showing the long ramuli in distinct rows.
2. near the base of an axis.

* 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, August 2005, addition and code change December 2008
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