



MACRO  
PLANT



Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Caulerpaceae

\*Descriptive name

glistening Caulerpa; §pimpled caulerpa

Features



1. plants green to dark green, 40-160mm tall
2. upright branches (axes) cylindrical, ≈ 4mm wide, simple or forked, arise from a bare runner (stolon)
3. branches **compactly** covered with small, glistening, barely visible bladders

Special requirements



cut a cross section of an axis and view microscopically to see the skittle-shaped bladders (ramuli), 350-500µm in diameter (bulbous near their tips with a **constriction** half-way or less along their lengths)



Occurrences

from W Australia to Victoria, and N Tasmania

Usual Habitat

shaded rock pools, to 12m deep, often emergent from other patches of *Caulerpa* species

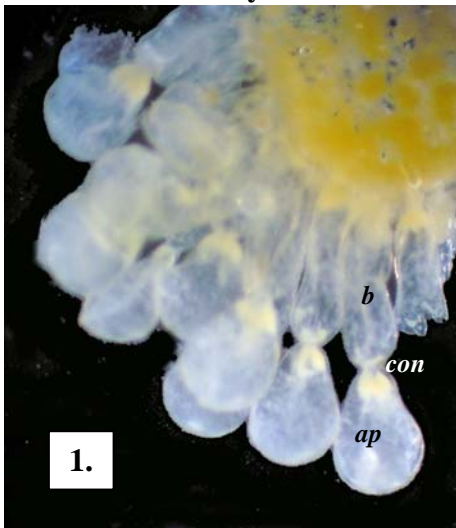
Similar Species

*Caulerpa simplisiuscula* also has upright branches compactly covered with small bladders but they are larger, more readily seen with the unaided eye and club-shaped in that species.

Description in the Benthic Flora

Part I, pages 270, 271, 273

Details of Anatomy



1. *Caulerpa papillosa* (A19391) from Elliston, S. Australia. A partial cross section through an upright branch showing the skittle-shaped bladders (ramuli) with the cylindrical base (**b**), constriction (**con**) and pear-shaped upper part (apex, **ap**)



2, 3. Views of *Caulerpa papillosa* Corny Point, S Yorke Peninsula, S Australia

- 2 .whole plant, approximately life size with a forked axis
- 3 magnified surface view showing the compact vesicles



\* 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