Techniques needed and shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Caulerpales; Family: Caulerpaceae

Previous Name:

Caulerpa racemosa var. laetevirens (Montagne) Weber van Bosse.

f. cylindracea (Sonder) Weber van Bosse.

(Verlaque found sufficient genetic and distributional differences to raise the form cylindracea to varietal level.)

*Descriptive name

sea-grapes (see the website “Algae Base”); § tropical caulera

Features

1. plants green, rapidly forming tangled mats in shallow water and amongst seagrass meadows.
2. upright branches arise from a runner (stolon). Club-shaped, bladder-like branches (ramuli) arise upwardly in a radial or irregular pattern from the upright branches (axes)
3. the plant is capable of rapid propagation from fragments even when partly covered by sediment

Occurrences

a sub-tropical species from W Australia, originally found only as far east as Albany. First recorded in S. Australia in 2002, colonising a settlement sheet in the Port Adelaide River, now well established in the Port River estuary and along the metropolitan Adelaide coast as far as O’Sullivan Beach as at 2005.

Usual Habitat

found un-attached at the edge of the tide and to 4m deep in sand and mud.

Similar Species

Caulerpa cactoides, but in that species bladder-like ramuli are larger (10-20mm long), arise oppositely from expanded shoulders of jointed, swollen, upright branches and plants are much coarser

Description in the Benthic Flora

Pt I, pages 270-271, 273 (as C. racemosa var. laetevirens f. cylindracea)

Details of Anatomy

1.
2.

1, 2. Specimens of Caulerpa racemosa var. cylindracea (A70502) from Angas Inlet, Port River estuary, S. Australia

* 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 July 2005
specimens of *Caulerpa racemosa* (Forsskal) J Agardh var. *cylindracea* (Sonder) Verlaque, Huisman & Boudouresque

3. from O’Sullivan Beach, S. Australia (A70536)
4. from the Port River, the first specimen (A69251) documented in S. Australia in 2002, shown attached to a settlement sheet

* 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 July 2005