**Caulerpa vesiculifera** Harvey

**Techniques needed and plant shape**

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

*Descriptive name*

bumpy-stemmed caulerpa; § beaded caulerpa

**Features**

1. plant green to dark green, 80-350mm tall
2. upright, branches (axes), sometimes forked, arise from a runner
3. dense, **swollen**, egg-shaped bladders (ramuli), 1.0-2.5mm long point outwards from the upright branches

**Special requirements**

view microscopically a cross section to see 7-9 bladders around an upright branch, **pinched** basally and attached by a **swelling** (conical pedestal)

This may be difficult to see or only slight in some specimens

**Occurrences**
W Australia through southern Australia and Tasmania

**Usual Habitat**
in rock pools and shallow water to 25m deep on rough water coasts

**Similar Species**

*Caulerpa simpliciuscula* but that species has **smaller** and more **numerous** bladder-like ramuli around an upright branch, **not** attached by a conical pedestal

**Description in the Benthic Flora**
Part I, pages 271, 272-273

**Details of Anatomy**

1. two magnifications of a preserved (bleached) specimen (A30734), from Pt Peron W. Australia) showing small upright branches covered in bladdery ramuli, arising from a robust runner

3. a preserved (bleached) specimen (A19392), viewed microscopically to show the bumps (conical pedicel. **con ped**) to which the bladdery ramuli attach

3. side view 4. partial cross section

* 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
5. 6. Two magnifications of *Caulerpa vesiculifera* Harvey (*A32487*) from Elliston, West coast, S. Australia, showing the bumpy surface of upright branches produced by dense, bladder-like ramuli.

7. A preserved (bleached) specimen (*A19392*), from Elliston, S. Australia viewed microscopically to show bladdery ultimate branches (ramuli) and a bumps (basal pedicel. *bas ped*) to which the bladdery ramuli attach.