Techniques needed and shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Cladophorales; Family: Cladophoraceae

*Descriptive name

loose-lying rough green threads (differing in touch to other softer thread-like green algae such as Cladophora)

Features

plants occur as tangled, green, unattached, woolly masses in shade on tidal flats

Special requirements

view the threads microscopically to find:

1. threads are mostly unattached, fairly straight and 85-100\(\mu\)m wide
2. threads are the same width throughout their length
3. cells are box-shaped, with length to breadth (L/B) = 1-2

Occurrences

from the Mediterranean and N Atlantic. In southern Australia, from N Spencer Gulf, Kangaroo I. S Australia, to Gippsland, Victoria, and probably more widespread but un-observed

Usual Habitat

in shade on mangrove pneumatophores, or under samphires on tidal flats

Similar Species

other unattached Chaetomorpha spp with hair-like threads found on tidal flats, for example, Ch. indica, but Ch. capillaris filaments are finer and found in the mid- to upper-intertidal

Description in the Benthic Flora

Part I, pages 178-180

Details of Anatomy

1. *Chaetomorpha capillaris* (slide 7444) stained blue showing box-shaped cells, L/B = 1-2 of straight, unbranched threads. The surface of this thread is covered with needle-like diatoms
2. *Chaetomorpha capillaris* (A58399) from American River inlet, Kangaroo I., S Australia, under samphires

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used

“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, June 2007