



Techniques needed and shape

Classification

\*Descriptive name

Features

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Cladophorales; Family: Cladophoraceae  
rough green threads (differing in touch to other softer thread-like green algae such as *Cladophora*)  
plants occur as long, **dark green, unattached, rigid, curved**, tangled threads

Special requirements



view the threads microscopically to find:

1. threads are **unattached**, slightly **curved** and 240-400µm wide
2. threads are the **same width** throughout their length
3. cells are box-shaped, with length to breadth (L/B) = 0.7-1.5

Occurrences

widespread, including N. Europe. In southern Australia, from Walpole Inlet, W Australia to Tasmania

Usual Habitat

in shallow, sheltered water, often tangled with other algae

Similar Species



other unattached *Chaetomorpha* spp with hair-like threads, in shallow, calm water. *Ch. linum* is considered a synonym of *Ch. aerea* by some authors, but threads of *Ch. aerea* are attached by elongate cells, and threads increase in width upwards in that species

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 173, 176, 179

Details of Anatomy



1.



3.



- 1, 2. *Chaetomorpha linum* (A53159 slide 20714); preserved specimens viewed microscopically
1. two strands showing differences in cell sizes, and slight curving
  2. higher magnification of box-shaped cells with L/B = 0.7-1.0
3. *Chaetomorpha linum* (A53159); from Port McDonnell, S Australia