Techniques needed and shape

Classification
- Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Cladophorales; Family: Cladophoraceae

*Descriptive name
- rough green threads (differing in touch to other softer thread-like green algae such as Cladophora)

Features
- 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. Chaetomorpha linum (Müller) Kützing

3. Chaetomorpha linum (A53159 slide 20714); from Port McDonnell, S Australia

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

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

“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, State Herbarium, S Australia, June 2007, corrected May 2013