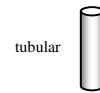


Techniques needed and plant shape



MICRO
PLANT



Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Caulerpales;
Family: Udoteaceae

***Descriptive name**

straw tufts

Features



1. plants green to dark green, 40-100mm tall, of **coarse**, sparsely branched threads
2. mature plants with a thickened wad at the base
3. threads even in thickness, **pinched** (constricted) where they branch

Variations

threads may be pinched (constricted) in several places, like a string of sausages

Special requirements



view the threads microscopically to see the **pinched** (constricted) sections above branches and the **lack of cross walls**, making the plant coenocytic

Occurrences

Usual Habitat

Elliston and Kangaroo I., S. Australia, N coast of Tasmania and Victoria
uncommon, in shaded or deepwater habitats on rock

Similar Species

Pseudocodium australasicum, but that species has flat threads (filaments), branching in one flat surface, and no basal wad in mature plants

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, page 242-245

Details of Anatomy



preserved (bleached) specimens of *Chlorodesmis baculifera* (A51906) showing two microscope magnifications of threads (filaments) near the plant edge, using dark field illumination to highlight their uniform thickness and pinching (constriction, arrowed) where they branch

A mature plant of *Chlorodesmis baculifera* (J. Agardh) Ducker (A67142) from Godfrey I., Guichen Bay, S. Australia with the matted, bulbous base (arrowed)



* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, June 2005