Cladophora rhizoclonioidea van den Hoek & Womersley

Techniques needed and plant shape

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

*Descriptive name tangled green threads

Features
Plants green, of diffuse masses of filaments entwined with other algae

Special requirements
1. view microscopically the long, sparsely branched filaments, entangled with their host, aided by curved or circular branches
2. lateral branches often attached on vertical surfaces of other filaments (laterally inserted)
5. chloroplasts forming a net (reticulate pattern)

Occurrences
known only from Nora Creina Bay, and West Island, S. Australia, but possibly more widespread as the species is easily overlooked

Similar Species
superficially like many filamentous green species, but filaments curved and merely entwined with their host (unattached) in this species

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 183, 188-189

Details of Anatomy

1. Cladophora rhizoclonioidea (A52833) mass, entwined with a Seirococcus branch
2-4. specimens stained blue and viewed microscopically at different magnifications
2. filaments teased out from the tangle of threads making up the plant to show the sparse and curved branching pattern (slide 6754)
3. single cell showing the net-like arrangement of the many chloroplasts present (slide 6754)
4. detail of the branching pattern (slide 9065)

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
* "Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, October 2003