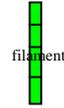




MICRO  
PLANT



**Techniques needed and shape**

**Classification**

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Cladophorales; Family: Cladophoraceae

**\*Descriptive name**

false cushion-Cladophora

**Features**

plants green, of tangled, **branched** threads forming compact **cushions** about 150mm across

**Special requirements**



view the threads microscopically to find:-

1. upper cells of filaments may be very **long**
2. side branches occur as **outgrowths** of the main axis, diagnostic of the genus
3. rhizoids are produced from the **basal parts** of side branches

**Occurrences**

widespread, including New Zealand, Queensland, Chile and Thailand. In southern Australia, from Hopetoun, W Australia to Encounter Bay, S.A.

**Usual Habitat**

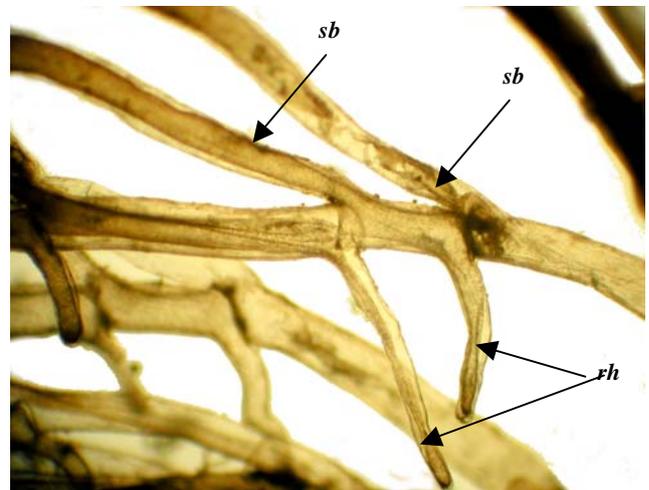
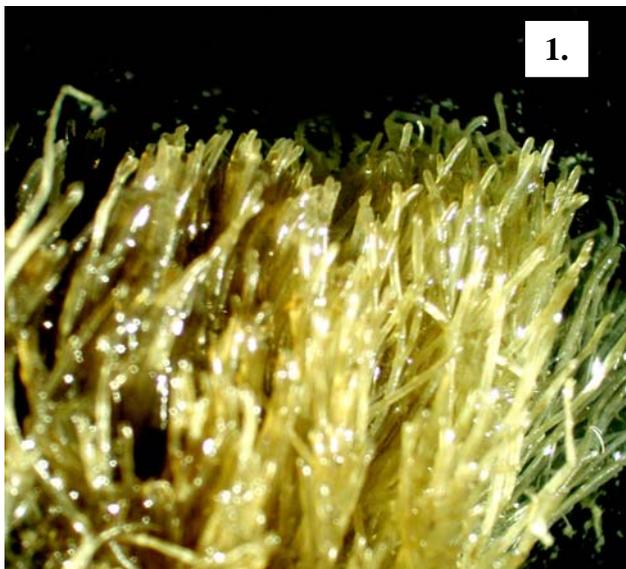
in shaded areas just above or below low tide mark on coasts of moderate wave energy, apparently in warmer waters

**Similar Species**

superficially like many filamentous algae (*Cladophora*, *Ulothrix*) but the connection of side branches to the main axis without a basal cell wall is unique (see image below). Separated from *Cladophoropsis magna* by presence of rhizoids at the bases of side branches, and the wider distribution.

**Description in the Benthic Flora** Part I, pages 183-4

**Details of Anatomy**



Preserved (bleached) specimens (A13612) of *Cladophoropsis herpestica*

1. edge of a cushion-shaped, compact mass of threads of a preserved specimen
2. threads with rhizoids (*rh*) on their undersides, and elongate cells
3. detail of branching, showing the side branches (*sb*) that lack cross walls at their bases, and rhizoids (*rh*) arising from the bases of axial cells



Cladoph  
herpestica

Elliston, S  
Lower litt.,  
15/1/19

Call. & Det. R. N. Baldock

*Cladophoropsis herpestica* (Montagne) Howe, (A13612)  
from Elliston, S Australia, in shaded parts of the lower intertidal

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