Claudea elegans Lamouroux

Techniques needed and shape

Classification
Division: Rhodophyta; Family: Delesseriaceae; Tribe: Delesserioideae

*Descriptive name
One-sided Mesh Plant (referring to the delicate net pattern of branching)

Features
plants red to grey-red, 200-400 mm tall, of delicate, one-sided net-like blades on curved stalks, 50-150 mm long and 10-30 mm wide

Variations
edges of the net may be frayed

Special requirements
easily recognised because of its unique net-like or mesh pattern

Occurrences
from central W Australian coasts to N Tasmania, also Indian Ocean and Brazil

Usual Habitat
on rock, often near sand, in good current flow

Description in the Benthic Flora Part IIID, pages 16-20

Details of Anatomy

Claudea elegans viewed microscopically
1. branching pattern near an apex: stalk, filament rows (f); ranks of cells (ra) forming the cross-bars of the mesh (slide 17170)
2. dark field microscopy of a fertile mesh: cross bars expanded into oval structures (arrowed) bearing tetrasporangia (slide 17169)

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

“Algae revealed”, R N Baldock, State Herbarium S Australia, March 2003; additions August 2007, revised August 2014
Claudia elegans
Lamouroux
from S Australia
3. off Troubridge Light, Gulf St Vincent, 17 m deep, on limestone (A33415)
4, 5. Head of the Great Australian Bight

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