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

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Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification
Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

*Descriptive name
deep water velvet fork-weed

Features
plants yellow-green, to 300mm tall, branches cylindrical, rubbery with a velvety surface, 3-6 mm in diameter, forked many times tapering gradually towards bullet-nosed or sometimes pointed tips

Special requirements
shave off or tease out a few of the microscopic, flask-shaped outer structures (utricles) and view them under the microscope. Utricles are squat, flat with a slightly thickened wall at the top and paired threads basally containing an internal constriction (plug) a little distant from the base

Occurrences
W. Australia? Gulf waters and West Coast islands, S Australia

Usual Habitat
on rock at depth (to 25m)

Similar Species
Codium harveyi, which has similar utricles, but branches are much narrower in that species

Description in the Benthic Flora
not recorded

Details of Anatomy

Preserved (bleached) specimens of Codium nuytsianum (A69496) viewed microscopically at different magnifications
1. utricle showing slight apical wall thickening (arrowed), a reproductive organ (gametangium, ga ) and hairs (h)
2. utricle near its base showing a plug (pl) a short distance from the start of the basal thread
3, 4. *Codium apiculatum* Silva, Chacana & Womersley (69496) from Althorpe L., S. Australia
3. habit
4. detail of the narrow tips from which the species gets its name
5. shaving from a branch surface viewed microscopically, highlighting the squat shape of utricles and thin cell walls

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