Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Codiales; Family: Codiaceae

*Descriptive name

§encrusting codium

Features

plants dark green, lobed, flat on rock 150mm long and 2.5-6.0mm thick with the consistency of rubber sheeting

Special requirements

shave off a few of the microscopic outer structures (utricles). View under the microscope. Utricles are cylindrical, 0.5-1.5mm long and 55-80μm in diameter, with slight constriction and slightly thickened wall near the top in some.

Occurrences

SE Tasmania only, probably the furthest extension of this sub-Antarctic species

Usual Habitat

on rock at low water level or amongst the stalks of Bull-kelp (Durvillea) in shallow water

Similar Species

Codium capitulatum and Codium lucasii. Microscopic investigation of the utricles is needed to separate the species, although the restricted distribution of Codium dimorphum is a useful guide.

Description in the Benthic Flora

Part I, pages 226-227, 229

Details of Anatomy

cluster of utricles of a preserved (bleached) specimen of Codium dimorphum viewed microscopically showing:-

- elongate, cylindrical shape
- slight constriction in some just below the apex (con)
- slightly thickened cell wall at the apex (arrowed)

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

§name used by Edgar, G (2008) in Australian Marine Life (2nd ed.)

“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, September 2003, modified August 2005
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Magnified view of *Codium dimorphum* Svedelius, (A53000), from Wineglass Bay, Tasmania