



MACRO  
PLANT



## Techniques needed and plant shape

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

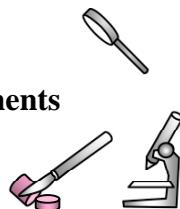
## \*Descriptive name

flat-forked velvet-weed; <sup>§</sup>forked codium

## Features

- plants yellow-green, to 600mm tall, forked, velvety or felty in texture
- cylindrical branches 3-10mm in diameter are usually, *flatter*, about 20mm broad, where they fork
- tiny bottle-shaped outer parts (utricles) are just visible to the unaided eye

## Special requirements



shave off a few of the microscopic outer structures (utricles). View under the microscope. Utricles are club-shaped, thin-walled, 650-1800µm long and 175-500µm, bear scars of deciduous hairs, and have paired threads at the base containing constrictions or plugs

## Occurrences

from central W Australia to Victoria and the N coast of Tasmania. Also S Africa on rock at low water level to 25m deep often in moderate or slight wave energy coastlines

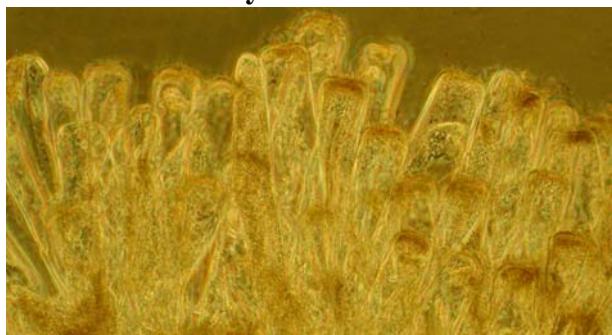
## Usual Habitat

*Codium fragile*, but branches in this species are narrower, and utricles have an apical point

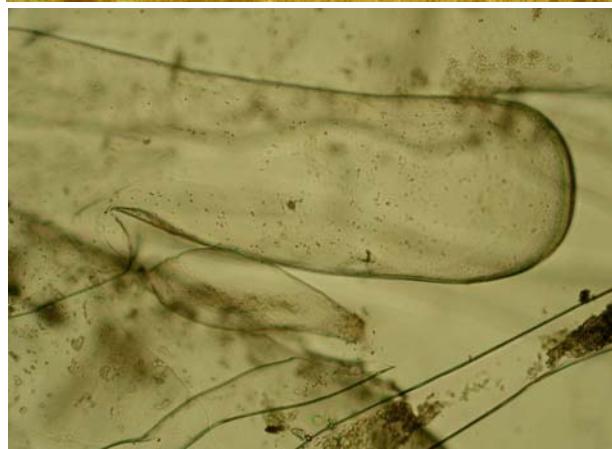
## Description in the Benthic Flora

Part I, pages 231, 233, 235-236

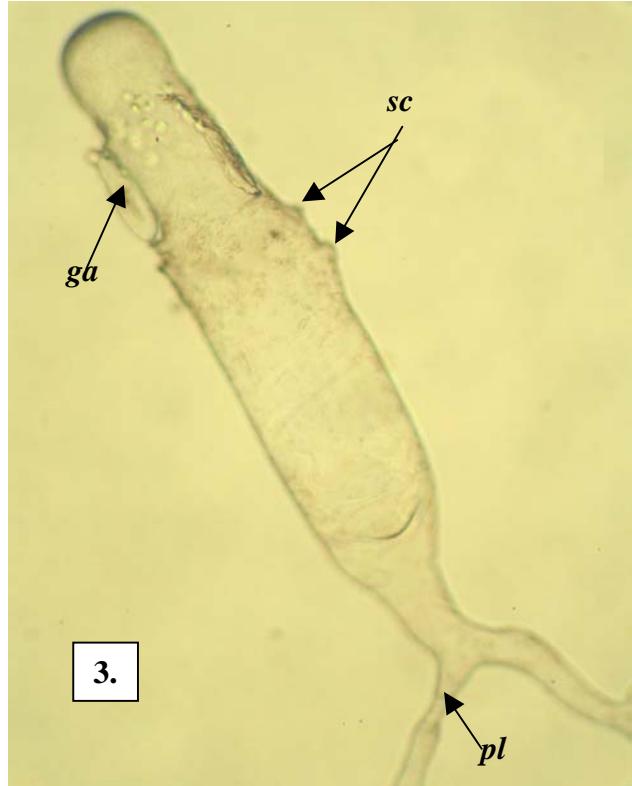
## Details of Anatomy



1.



2.



3.

Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Codium duthieae* (A18659) viewed microscopically at different magnifications

- cluster of utricles from shaving a branch showing thin walls and club-shaped appearance.
- detail of the apex of a utricle, showing the rounded end and thin walls
- single utricle with its basal filament and plug (*pl*), a reproductive organ (*gametangium, ga*) and scars (*sc*) where hairs have been shed.

5,175



Two magnifications of  
*Codium duthieae* Silva  
in Silva & Womersley,  
(A35175) from Robe, S.  
Australia



Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used,  
§name used by Edgar, G (2008) in Australian Marine Life (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)  
“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, September 2003