Techniques needed and plant shape

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

*Descriptive name
narrow velvet fork-weed; § Harvey’s codium

Features
plants yellow-green, to 300mm tall, branches cylindrical, rubbery with a velvety surface, 3-5 mm in diameter, forked many times and tapering to the 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, 350-850μm long and 170-600μm in diameter, flat with a thickened wall at the top and paired threads basally containing an internal constriction (plug)

Occurrences
NW Australia, around southern Australia and Tasmania to the central NSW coast

Usual Habitat
on rock from low water level in shaded sites to 30m deep, on moderate wave energy coasts from

Similar Species
Codium australicum and Codium muelleri. Microscopic investigation of the utricles is needed to separate the species.

Description in the Benthic Flora
Part I, pages 236-237, 239

Details of Anatomy

Preserved (bleached) specimens of Codium harveyi (A19873) viewed microscopically at different magnifications
1. shaving from a branch surface, highlighting the squat shape of utricles and thickening of the cell wall at the ends of utricles
2. utricle near its apex, showing apical wall thickening (arrowed), a reproductive organ (gametangium, ga) and a scar (sc) left by a deciduous hair
3. utricle near its base showing a plug (pl) a short distance from the start of the basal thread

* 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
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*Codium harveyi Silva, (A20382) from Vivonne Bay, Kangaroo I., S. Australia