**Techniques needed**

**Classification**

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

*Descriptive name*

green bird-dropping

**Features**

Plants dark green, flat on rock, to 150mm across and 10mm thick, lobed, rubbery

**Special requirements**

Shave off or tease out a few of the microscopic, flask-shaped outer structures (utricles) and view them under the microscope. Utricles cylindrical, 400-800μm long and 50-100μm in diameter, pinched near the top, apex rounded walls thick, end wall pitted, and pairs of threads basally

**Occurrences**

Central W Australia to southern coastlines, N coast Tasmania and southern Queensland

**Usual Habitat**

On rock in the lower intertidal to shallow water

**Similar Species**

*Codium capitulatum*. Microscopic investigation of the utricles is needed to separate the species.

**Description in the Benthic Flora**

Part I, pages 227-229

**Details of Anatomy**

Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Codium lucasii* (A18830) viewed microscopically at different magnifications

1. Tips of utricles and a single reproductive organ (gametangium, ga) showing the thick walls, particularly at the tips
2. Utricle tip showing the thickened and pitted end wall (arrowed) and slightly lop-sided bulbous tip. A single reproductive organ (gametangium, ga) with terminal lid is also present

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

“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, September 2003
4. magnified view of *Codium lucasii* Setchell, (A18830) from Sorrento, Victoria
5. utricles and a few detached filaments from a shaving of the plant surface, viewed microscopically. The characteristic constriction near the tips of utricles is a feature of the species (A18830)

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, September 2003