



MACRO
PLANT

Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

*Descriptive name

granular balls (referring to the plant's ball shape and the numerous tiny utricles visible at the surface)

Features



1. plants yellow green, **ball-shaped**, to 800mm across, firm, softening with age
2. outer flask-shaped structures, (utricles) just **visible** to the unaided eye

Special requirements

utricles (not shown below) are large, 4-7mm long and 450-1000µm in diameter according to Womersley, page 230.

Occurrences

southern W Australia to Victoria, and the Hawaiian islands

Usual Habitat

on rock at low water level in shaded sites to 42m deep, in moderate wave action

Similar Species

Codium pomoides, but that species is **dark** green, almost black in colour, has a very tough texture and **microscopic** utricles

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 230-233

Details of Anatomy



enlarged view of *Codium mamillosum* (A8352b) showing the many utricles visible at the surface (some of which are coated with an encrusting pink coralline alga)