

**Techniques needed**



MACRO  
PLANT

**Classification**

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

**\*Descriptive name**

§sea apple

**Features**

plants dark green (-black), **ball-shaped**, to 120mm in diameter, **tough** and rubbery, hollow when old. Outer flask shaped structures (utricles) not visible to the unaided eye

**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 tightly packed, 1-3mm long and 90-125µm in diameter, club-shaped, slightly constricted near the top, end wall thick with a unique internal extension (**umbo**), paired threads basally with internal constriction (plug)

**Occurrences**

southern W Australia to Victoria and Tasmania

**Usual Habitat**

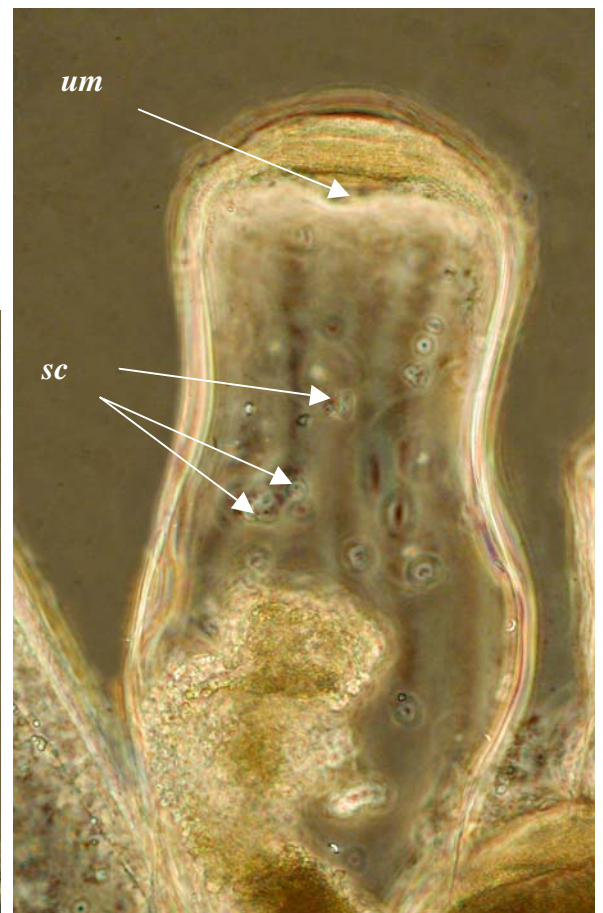
on rock at low water level in shaded sites to 20m deep on rough water coasts

**Similar Species**

*Codium mamillosum* but this is yellow green, and individual utricles can be seen with the unaided eye, also *Codium perrinae* but this species is usually lobed. Microscopic investigation of the utricles is needed to confirm the species. Superficially like the dark green colonies of blue-green bacteria, *Rivularia firma*.

**Description in the Benthic Flora** Part I, pages 232-233

**Details of Anatomy**



Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Codium pomoides* (A19380) viewed microscopically

1. utricle tips from a shaving of the plant surface highlighting the thickened end wall and slight constriction near the tip
2. utricle top showing thickened end wall with internal extension (umbo, *um* ) and surface wall scars (*sc* ), hairs absent

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

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

“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, July 2003



*Codium pomoides* J. Agardh, (A35180) from Carpenter Rocks, S. Australia

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