**Codium silvae** Womersley

**A SPECIES WITH FEW RECORDS**

**Techniques needed and plant shape**

**Classification**

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

*rare forked velvet-weed*

**Features**

plants yellow green, to 300mm tall, branches cylindrical, ≈8mm in diameter, irregularly forked, tapering towards the tips, rubbery, surface velvety

**Special requirements**

shave off or tease out a few of the microscopic, flask-shaped outer structures (utricles) and view them under the microscope.

Utricles squat and cylindrical, 850-1150μm long and 125-250μm in diameter, end wall *thick*, helmet-shaped (*galeate*) with unique *inwardly* projecting *spines*, paired threads basally with internal constriction (plug) close to the base

**Occurrences**

Rare. Known only from a single specimen from Eucla, W Australia.

**Similar Species**

*Codium galeatum* which is much commoner and widespread. Microscopic investigation of the utricles is needed to separate the species

**Description in the Benthic Flora**

Part I, pages 231, 233, 234

**Details of Anatomy**

Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Codium silvae* (A50695) viewed microscopically

1. 2. two views of the unique internal projections produced by thickened end walls of utricles (#1. surface view, #2 sectional view)

3. base of a detached utricle showing the continuation of the utricle into paired threads with a plug (*pl*) very close to the utricle base

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

“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, July 2003
4. *Codium silvae* Womersley (A50695) from Eucla, W Australia
5. cluster of utricles from a shaving of the surface of a preserved (bleached) specimen showing the variation in size

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