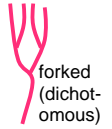


Techniques needed and plant shape



MACRO
PLANT

tubular



Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

***Descriptive name**

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



2.



3.



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



5.



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

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