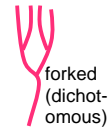


Techniques needed and plant shape



MACRO
PLANT



tubular



Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

*Descriptive name

slender forked velvet-weed

Features

plants bright green, to 200mm tall, branches cylindrical, *slender* \approx 3mm in diameter, rubbery with velvety surface, *regularly* forked many times

Special requirements



shave off or tease out a few of the microscopic, flask-shaped outer structures (utricles) and view them under the microscope. Utricles flask-shaped, 470-680 μ m long and 80-270 μ m in diameter, with a large, hollow terminal *point*, paired threads basally with inward constriction (plug)

Occurrences

southern W Australia to the Head of the Great Australian Bight, and Pt Gawler S Australia

Usual Habitat

on rock from shallow water to 33m deep

Similar Species

Codium fragile but that species has thicker branches, and a swollen attachment pad. Microscopic investigation of the utricles easily separates the species.

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 237, 239-240

Details of Anatomy

1.



1. Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Codium spinescens* (A59904) viewed microscopically showing detail of the characteristic pointed tip of a utricle, showing the small chamber (*ch*) inside, and layering (*la*) of the cell wall

2.



3.



2. *Codium spinescens* Silva **in** Womersley, (A59904) cast up at Pt Gawler, S Australia
3. cluster of utricles and hairs (*h*) from a shaving of the plant surface of a preserved (bleached) specimen

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