Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

*Descriptive name

Features

Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Rhodymeniales; Family: Rhodymeniaceae

*Descriptive name: branched sausage weed

1. plants red-brown, fading to yellow-red, 50-200mm tall, of tubular, jelly-filled segments practically touching but with inconspicuous broad, short joints
2. main branches (axes) of tubular segments 10-40 x 3-6mm, side branching irregular, segments decreasing in size towards branch tips
3. mature female structures (cystocarps) scattered, not protruding from segments

Occurrences

Usual Habitat

Special requirements

1. tease out a piece of segment wall and view microscopically to find extremely fine threads bearing tiny secretory cells on the inside of inner (medullary) cells
2. cut cross sections of the wall of a segment and view microscopically the
- narrow band of tiny outer (cortical) cells branched once and facing outwards
- narrow inner layer (medulla) of large cells
- tetrasporangia in patches, decussately divided
- mature female structures (cystocarps) protruding into the jelly-filled segment centre, with a single external opening (ostiole). Internally, masses of sporangia joined basally to a small pyramid of feeding cells
3. cut a lengthwise section through a joint and view microscopically to find a single row of large cells separating segments

Similar Species

Coelarthrum opuntia, but that is branched regularly, with obvious thin joints several cells thick; Rhabdonia clavigera, and Erythroclonium spp but these have a central thread; Webervanbossea kaliformis

Description in the Benthic Flora

Details of Anatomy

Part IIB, pages 57-59

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

"Algae Revealed", R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium October 2010
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“Algae Revealed”, R N Balock, S Australian State Herbarium October 2010

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**Coeolarthrum cliftonii** (Harvey) Kylin from S Australia

6, 7. two magnifications of a specimen, 30-35m deep, from Pearson I. (A34143)

7. lengthwise section through a joint stained blue and viewed microscopically showing the single row of large cells separating adjacent segments (A38099 slide 14632)