Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Gigartinales; Family: Cystoclioniaceae

finely fringed blades

plants red, fading to yellow brown, 50-100 mm tall, of soft, thin and flat-branched blades 4-7 mm broad, regular in width, forked or laterally branched; fringed with tiny, cylindrical, proliferations about 1 mm long

Geraldton, W Australia to Victoria and Bass Strait

a moderately deep water species (28 m) in slight to moderate water movement, often on seagrass (Amphibolis) stems

members of the Delesseriaceae (“filmy reds”), but differing in the presence of cell rings (rosettes) in surface view. Differing in female reproductive features from Rhodophyllis

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view microscopically to find

1. in surface view: rounded blade tips, faint veins, flat-branched (pinnate) (best seen when stained blue), small cells ringing larger ones (rosettes)
2. in cross sections: a vague core (medulla, med) of a few, obscure threads; wide layers (cortex, co) of large spherical cells; ringed with smaller ones (forming the rosettes), bright gland cells absent
3. in cross sections of spherical swellings in the fringing proliferations of female plants: central masses of cells (gonimoblast), chains of sporangia (carposporangia, ca sp), cellular wall (pericarp, peri) but no opening (ostiole)
4. in sporangial plants: large, tetrasporangia, scattered in the cortex of fringing proliferations, divided across into four sporangia (zonate)

Details of Anatomy

1. Craspedocarpus blepharicarpus stained blue and viewed microscopically

2. 1. blade cross section: several threads in the core (medulla, med), layers of inner large cells (inner cortex, in co) ringed by outer small cells (outer cortex, o co) (slide 19117)
   2. surface view of fringing proliferations bearing female structures (cystocarps, cys) (slide 13165)
   3. cystocarp extracted from a fringing proliferation: chains of carposporangia (ca sp), cellular wall (pericarp, peri) (slide 19118)
   4. cross section through a fringing proliferation bearing tetrasporangia (t sp) divided across (zonate) (slide 17580)

*Craspedocarpus blepharicarpus* stained blue and viewed microscopically

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