Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Ceramiales;
Family: Ceramiaceae; Tribe: Crouanieae

*Descriptive name
banded threads

Features
plants on bryozoans and shells, tiny, about 20mm tall, of faintly banded threads

Special requirements
view microscopically to find:

- upright threads of *naked* cells, relatively long in lower plant parts each with *well-separated* rings of 3 short, tufted whorl branchlets forked 4-6 times, bending upwards, ending in a *rounded* cell often tipped with a fine hair
- *stalkless* tetrasporangia on lower whorl branchlets, tetrahedrally divided (material not available for these sheets)

Occurrences
known only from Simpson Bay, Bruny I. and Tinderbox, Tasmania

Usual Habitat
growing on bryozoan corals and shells, 6-11m deep

Similar Species
*Couania robbii*, but that species has shorter axial cells and longer whorl branchlets in rings that are closer together

Description in the Benthic Flora
Part IIIC, pages 48-50

Details of Anatomy

Crouania brunyana (A41616 slide 4287) stained blue and viewed microscopically:

1. plant tip with axial cells (*ax c*), young whorl branchlets (*wh br*) and rounded apical cells (*ap c*), some tipped with a hair (*ha*)
2. a mature branch showing 2 of the 3 whorl branchlets in a single ring, with rhizoids (*rh*) produced from their basal cells

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

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3. *Crouania brunyana* E M Wollaston (A41616) from Bruny I., Tasmania

4. specimen (A41616 slide 4287) stained blue and viewed microscopically showing elongate axial cells (*ax c*) and rings of 3 whorl branchlets (*wh br 1,2,3*) well separated from each other