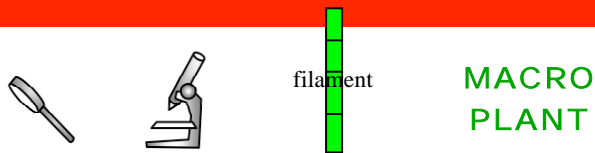


**Techniques needed and plant shape**



**Classification**

Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Ceramiales; Family: Dasyaceae  
slender red tufts

**\*Descriptive name**

**Features**



plants red, with thin main branches and delicate lateral tufts

**Special requirements**



view microscopically to find

- **alternating** (sympodial) growth pattern at tips. Each cell rapidly enveloped by 5 (pericentral) cells, resulting in **cylindrical** main branches. Short tufts of **branched** threads (pseudo-laterals) arising from upper ends of pericentral cells, **unbranched** threads (adventitious monosiphonous filaments) found in other species **absent**. Branches later **moderately** coated (corticated) with rhizoids running **inside** branch sheaths.
- tetrasporangia in special lance-shaped branches (stichidia), **branched threads** often at the tip, crossed by 6-20 cell bands, 5 tetrahedrally divided sporangia in each band, each with a lid of (cover cell)
- stalkless, **flask-shaped** cystocarps (the products of fertilisation), with a mass of carposporangia in **chains** inside

**Occurrences**

known only from Port Phillip, Victoria

**Usual Habitat**

on rocks or growing on mussels, 0.5 – 8m deep

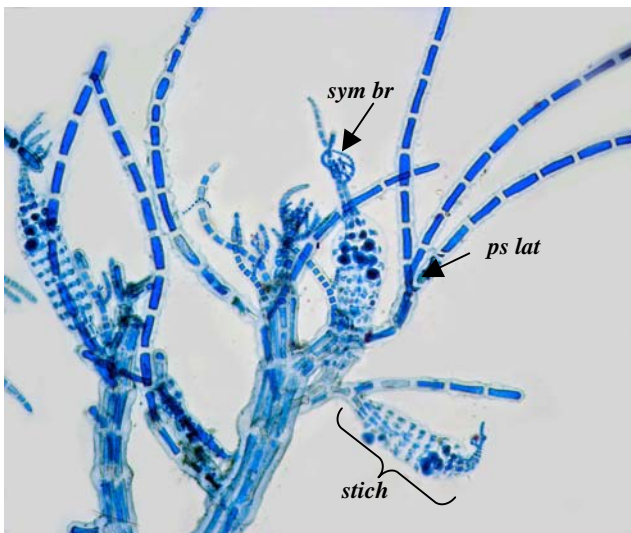
**Similar Species**

*Dasya crescens*, but that species is less tufted, has thinner pseudo-laterals, more elongate cells in the cystocarp wall and tear-shaped masses of carposporangia

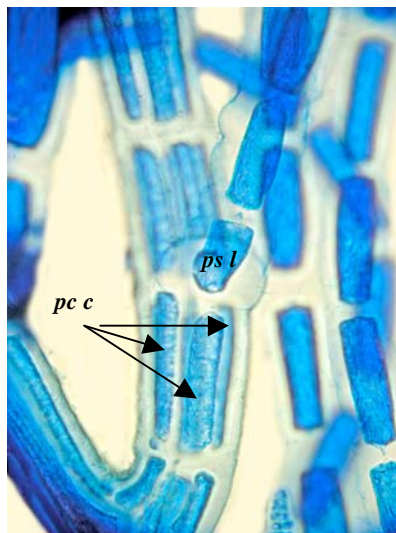
**Description in the Benthic Flora**

Part IIIC, pages 466-468

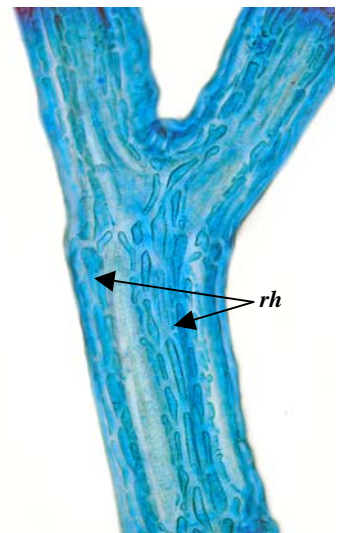
**Details of Anatomy**



1.



2.

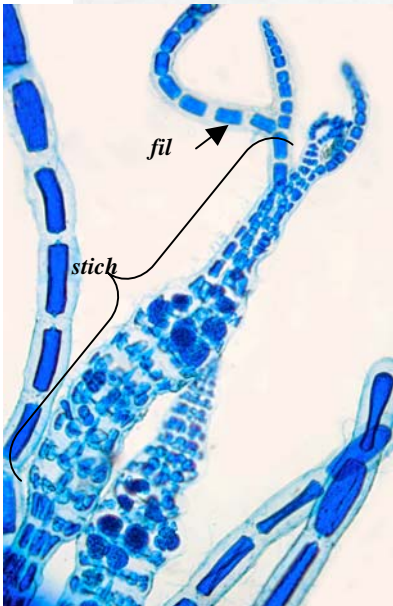


3.

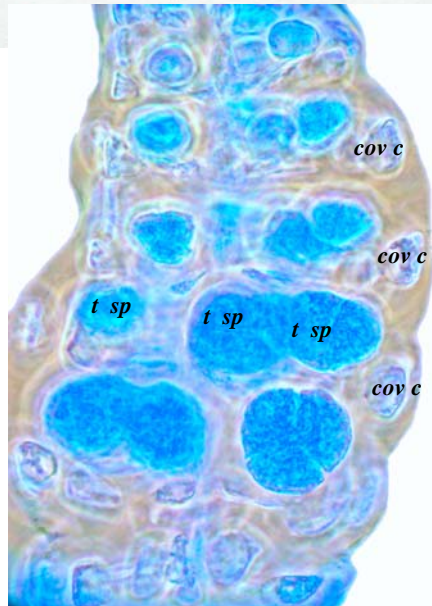
*Dasya atactica* (A56314 slide 9061) stained blue and viewed microscopically.

1. characteristic sympodial branching pattern (*sym br*) at tips, tetrasporangial structures (stichidia, *stich*) and branched pseudolaterals (*ps lat*)
2. filament detail with envelope of pericentral cells (*pc c*) (3 of the total of 5 in view) obscuring the central filament, and origin of a pseudolateral (*ps l*)
3. middle part of a plant showing rhizoids (*rh*) within branch sheaths, partly obscuring the pericentral cells below

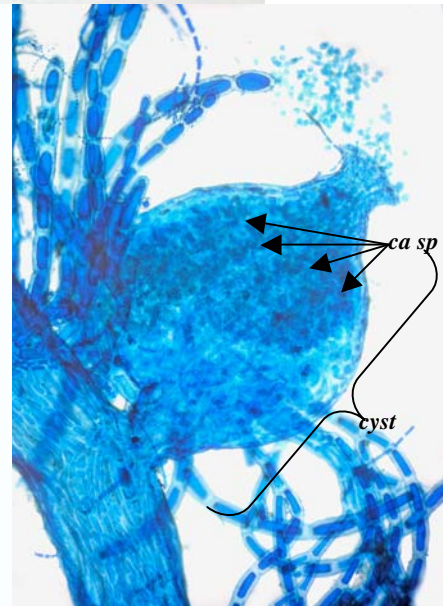
\* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used  
"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, February 2007



5.



6.



7.

4. *Dasya atactica* J Agardh A56314 from the Gellibrand Light, Port Phillip, Victoria, 6-8m deep.  
 5, 6. specimens (A56314 slide 9061) stained blue and viewed microscopically at different magnifications  
 5. tetrasporangial structure (stichidium, *stich*) tipped with branched filaments (*fil*)  
 6. detail of sporangia, (*t sp*) with cover cells (*cov c*)  
 7. cystocarp (*cyst*) with obscure chains of carposporangia (*ca sp*) inside (A56314 slide 9060)

\* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used  
 "Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, February 2007