



MACRO
PLANT



Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Phaeophyta; Family: Dictyotaceae; Tribe: Zonarieae

*Descriptive name

delicate fan-tips; § southern peacock weed

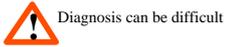
Features

1. plants brown, iridescent underwater, 30-60 mm tall, **fan-shaped**, consisting of flat, **thin** blades, spreading horizontally when young, becoming **split** into narrow spreading lobes with age
2. growth by a **line** of dark cells at the edge of blades, hairs and sporangia in **concentric bands**

Special requirements



1. view the line of dark dividing cells (meristem) at the blade edge
2. slice a blade across. Only **2 rows** of cells present.
3. find the transparent covering (**indusium**) on young sporangia



Occurrences

from S W Australia to Victoria and Bass Strait

Usual Habitat

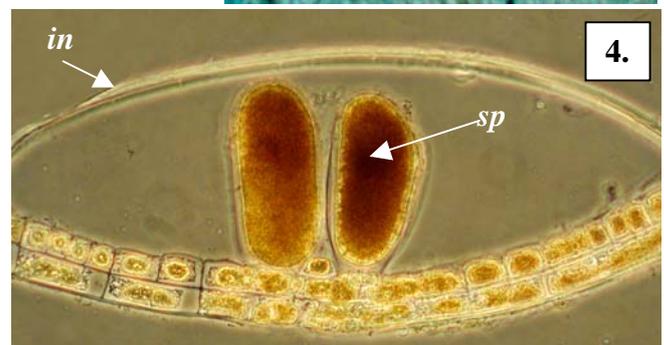
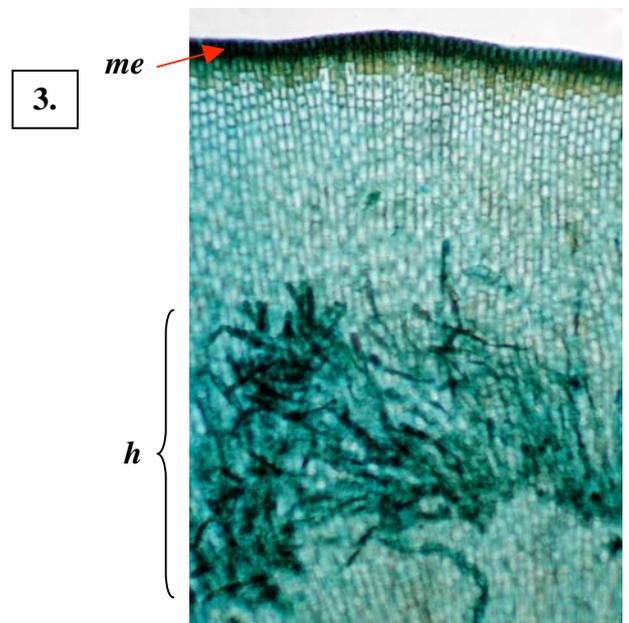
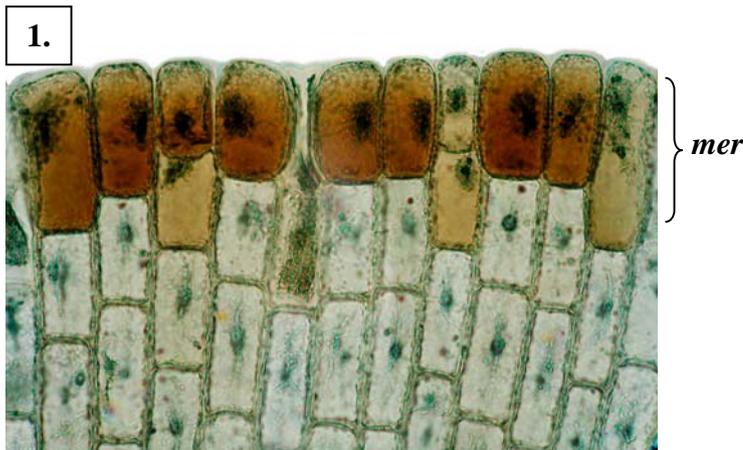
on rock, 1-36m deep

Similar Species

Lobophora variegata, *Padina* species and *Exallosorus olsenii*. Blades are thicker in those species

Description in the Benthic Flora Part II, pages 230-232, 234

Details of Anatomy



Specimens of *Distromium flabellatum* stained blue and viewed microscopically

1. dark line of dividing cells (*mer*) fringing a blade (slide 9816)
2. cross section at blade edge with a single dark cell from the line of dividing cells (meristem, *mer*) and the 2 rows of cells in the remainder of the blade
3. surface view of blade edge with meristem (*me*), and the first of a series of concentric bands of hairs (*h*)
4. cross section through a patch (sorus) of spores (*sp*) with a transparent covering (indusium, *in*) and 2 cell layers making up the blade (slide 689)



Young and old specimens of *Distromium flabellatum* Womersley from S Australia
 4. a mature drift plant (A30711) from Aldinga with spreading blades split into narrow lobes
 5, 6. two magnifications of a young plant from Point Lowly (A59329), 14m deep on an artificial tyre reef showing the filmy, fan-shaped blades and arcs of sporangia

Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
 § name used in Edgar, G. *Australian Marine Life, 2nd Ed.* (2008)
 "Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State, July 2003