**Glossophora nigricans**  
(J. Agardh) Womersley

**Techniques needed**

**Classification**

Division: Phaeophyta; Family: Dictyotaceae; Tribe: Dictyoteae

*Descriptive name*

suede strapweed; §hairy forkweed

**Features**

1. plants olive brown 150-500mm long, of broad, flat blades, sparingly branched into two’s (dichotomous)
2. surface densely covered with small outgrowths  
the blades may have narrow holes in them

**Variations**

1. view the tips microscopically to find the single lens-shaped apical cell  
2. cut a slice across a branch to find a single middle layer (medulla) (more in old parts) and outer (cortex) of small cells

**Special requirements**

1. view the tips microscopically to find the single lens-shaped apical cell  
2. cut a slice across a branch to find a single middle layer (medulla) (more in old parts) and outer (cortex) of small cells

**Occurrences**

from W Australia to Victoria and around Tasmania

**Usual Habitat**

on hard surfaces in deep, shaded pools or deep water on rough coasts

**Similar Species**

*Dilophus robustus*, but it lacks the surface “felt”, and is more regularly branched

**Description in the Benthic Flora**

Part II, pages 199-201

**Details of Anatomy**

1. cross section showing two outgrowths (o gr) that give the overall “suede” appearance to the plant when viewed from above, a single row of large middle (medulla, med) cells, single row of small outer (cortical, co) cells and male organs (sperm) (slide 9502)
2. unstained surface view of outgrowths and reproductive organs (asbr14)

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* 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 Herbarium, July 2003
Glossophora nigricans (J Agardh) Womersley, (A13443s): two magnifications of a drift plant from Elliston, S Australia,