Techniques needed

Classification

Division: Rhodophyta; Order: Ceramiales Family: Delesseriaceae; Tribe: Nitophyllaceae; Group: Phycodrys

*Descriptive name

Filmy Cellophane Plant (delicate flat fronds that lack veins)

Features

1. plants are rose-red colour
2. blade margins have coarse teeth
3. flat, narrow branches (blades) are very thin
4. side branching is irregular, from the edges of main branches
5. blades have no veins

Special requirements

1. blades grow from single cells at the tips or edges of blades
2. blades are one cell thick (monostromatic)

Usual Habitat

only known from calm waters in American River, Kangaroo Island and not collected recently

Similar Species

other foliose members of the Delesseriaceae that have toothed margins such as Heterodoxia but the blade in Haraldia is a single cell thick and there are no veins

Description in the Benthic Flora Part IIID, page 67-69

Details of Anatomy

Various magnifications of Haraldia australica, stained with aniline blue

1. slide 764: detail of spines on the edge of a blade that is 1 cell layer thick (monostromatic)
2. slide 764: detail of a blade tip showing the apical cell (a) that divides forming irregularly arranged cells and no veins
3/4 A 31571 slide 17769: two magnifications of clusters (sori) of tetrahedrally divided tetrasporangia

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
Prepared March 2003, updated October 2005; additions made April 2007
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Haraldia australica Womersley A15370k:
From shallow water, American River Inlet, Kangaroo I., S Australia

5. Haraldia australica A 15370 slide 17648, stained blue and viewed microscopically:
surface view of a cystocarp (cys), showing club shaped carposporangia (ca sp) at the margins
(terminal) of a small fusion cell (f c)