**Techniques needed and plant shape**

**Classification**

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

*Descriptive name*

red platythalia fuzz

**Features**

red tufts about 4mm tall form patches on the brown alga, *Platythalia angustifolia*

**Special requirements**

- several upright main branches (axes) in each plant attached by rhizoids at the base (probably penetrating the host fertile openings — conceptacles), 1-2 short side branches (whorl branchlets) at right angles per axial cell, one usually larger and more branched than the other
- carposporophytes (the products of fertilisation) with bunches of carposporangia at the ends of branches, surrounded by 4 whorl branchlets
- stalkless, tetrahedrally divided tetraspores on lower cells of whorl branchlets in sporangiate plants

**Occurrences**

known only from Sarge Bay, Cape Leeuwin, W. Australia

**Usual Habitat**

not known (drift plant)

**Similar Species**

other *Heterothamnion* spp, but they have 4 whorl branchlets per axial cell, and parasitise *Cystophora* spp

**Description in the Benthic Flora**

Part IIC, pages 162, 165, 166

**Details of Anatomy**

- cross section through the host (ho) to show the mass of penetrating rhizoids (rh) (slide 16611)
- carposporophytes (ca sp) (products of fertilisation), at the ends of branches (slide 16612)
- tetrasporangia (t sp) on basal whorl branchlet cells (slide 16613)
- odd-sized whorl branchlets (wh br) at right angles from each main branch cell (slide 16612)
- tetrasporangial branchlets (slide 16612)

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

“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, February 2007
6. *Heterothamnion platythaliae* Athanasiadis A34205 (arrowed) on *Platythalia*

7. whole, detached plant stained blue and viewed microscopically (A34205 slide 16612)

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“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, February 2007