**Interthamnion attenuatum**

**Gordon**

**Techniques needed and plant shape**

**Classification**

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

*Descriptive name*

red zonaria-fuzz

**Features**

plants form tiny red tufts to 2mm tall on the surface of the brown alga, *Zonaria*

**Special requirements**

1. view microscopically to locate

- **creeping** threads of naked cells attached to the host surface by **branched** attachment organs (haptera) with erect threads of naked cells, often branching on **one side** only
- tetrahedrally divided tetrasporangia, **apparently stalkless**, in short, **clustered** side branches
- tiny male spermatangial heads on **one side** of upright branches, **apparently stalkless**
- **small**, 3-celled female fertile branches (procarps) with 4 short branches forming a loose wrapping (involucre) from the lowest (hypogenous) cell, **3 groups** of several cells developing from the middle (sub-apical) cell, an obscure, **small** fusion cell producing club-shaped carposporangia at its **edges** after fertilisation

(\(^t\) these observations of type material differ from the statements in the Flora)

**Occurrences**

only known from Tasmania

**Usual Habitat**

on the brown alga, *Zonaria* from 2-12m deep

**Similar Species**

many members of the Tribe: Spermothamnieae, and good female structures are essential for correct identification

**Description in the Benthic Flora** Part IIC, pages 221, 222

**Details of Anatomy**

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

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

“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, March 2007
6. *Interthamnion attenuatum* Gordon A29616.
   Type. Plants (arrowed) on *Zonaria spiralis* in upper sublittoral pools from Aldinga, S Australia

7. a (male) plant of *Interthamnion attenuatum* A63960 slide 15117 stained blue and viewed under dark field microscopy to emphasize the creeping filaments and erect parts with branching on one side

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