**Micropeuce proxima**
(Harvey) Womersley & M J Parsons

Assigned to *Micropeuce* with some doubt

**Techniques needed and plant shape**

**Classification**

*Descriptive name*

**Features**

Division: Rhodophyta; Family: Rhodomelaceae; Tribe: Lophothalieae

ragged tufts

plants dark red of tubular (terete) main branches (axes) with smaller side branches ending in delicate pink tufts

**Special requirements**

view microscopically to find

- at branch tips, delicate tufts of much branched threads (*trichoblasts*) with individual (non adherent) cell walls at branches, a feature that placing this genus in the Tribe: Lophothalieae

- in a cross section, a central filament ringed by 5 flanking (pericentral) cells a feature separating it from *Holotrichia*

- spherical cystocarps, products of fertilisation, with an opening at the tip

**Occurrences**

a single specimen from Middleton Bay, King George Sound W Australia

**Usual Habitat**

unknown

**Similar Species**

other genera of corticated Lophothalieae, and requiring mature tetrasporangia for accurate identification

**Description in the Benthic Flora**

Part IIID, pages 254, 259

**Details of Anatomy**

1. part of a heavily corticated main branch (axis, *ax*), and the base of a branched thread (trichoblast, *trich*)

2. detail of a detached piece of axis with exposed trichoblasts, showing the individual cell walls at branches (arrowed)

3. cross section of an axis, (distorted during preparation), showing a central thread (*c fil*) ringed by five flanking (pericentral) cells, (1-5) obscured because of the numbers of large inner cortical cells (*i co*); and an outer layer of small cells (outer cortex, *o co*)

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

4. *Micropeuce proxima* (Harvey) Womersley & M J Parsons, A18471: a fragment of the type specimen from King George Sound, W Australia, mounted on mica
5. 6 cystocarps (*cys*) (A18471 slide 18349) stained blue and viewed microscopically
   5. lower magnification with cystocarps partly obscured by numerous thread-like trichoblasts
   6. dissected cystocarp showing the tip with lines of cells leading to the opening (arrowed)

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