

Techniques needed and shape



Classification

Division: Rhodophyta; Family: Delesseriaceae; Tribe: Nitophylloideae
Group: *Nitophyllum*

*Descriptive name

Red Sea-Lettuce

Features

plants red to yellow-red colour filmy or lettuce-like (*foliose*) divided into broad blades lobed at the edges, margins often *ruffled*; *no veins* present

Special requirements



1. view the blade edges to find either an obscure apical cell or a fringe of cells that continue the growth of the blade
2. view a slice of a blade made largely of a single row of cells, except towards the base of the plant
3. complete identification requires observation of the female procarp

Occurrences

Usual Habitat

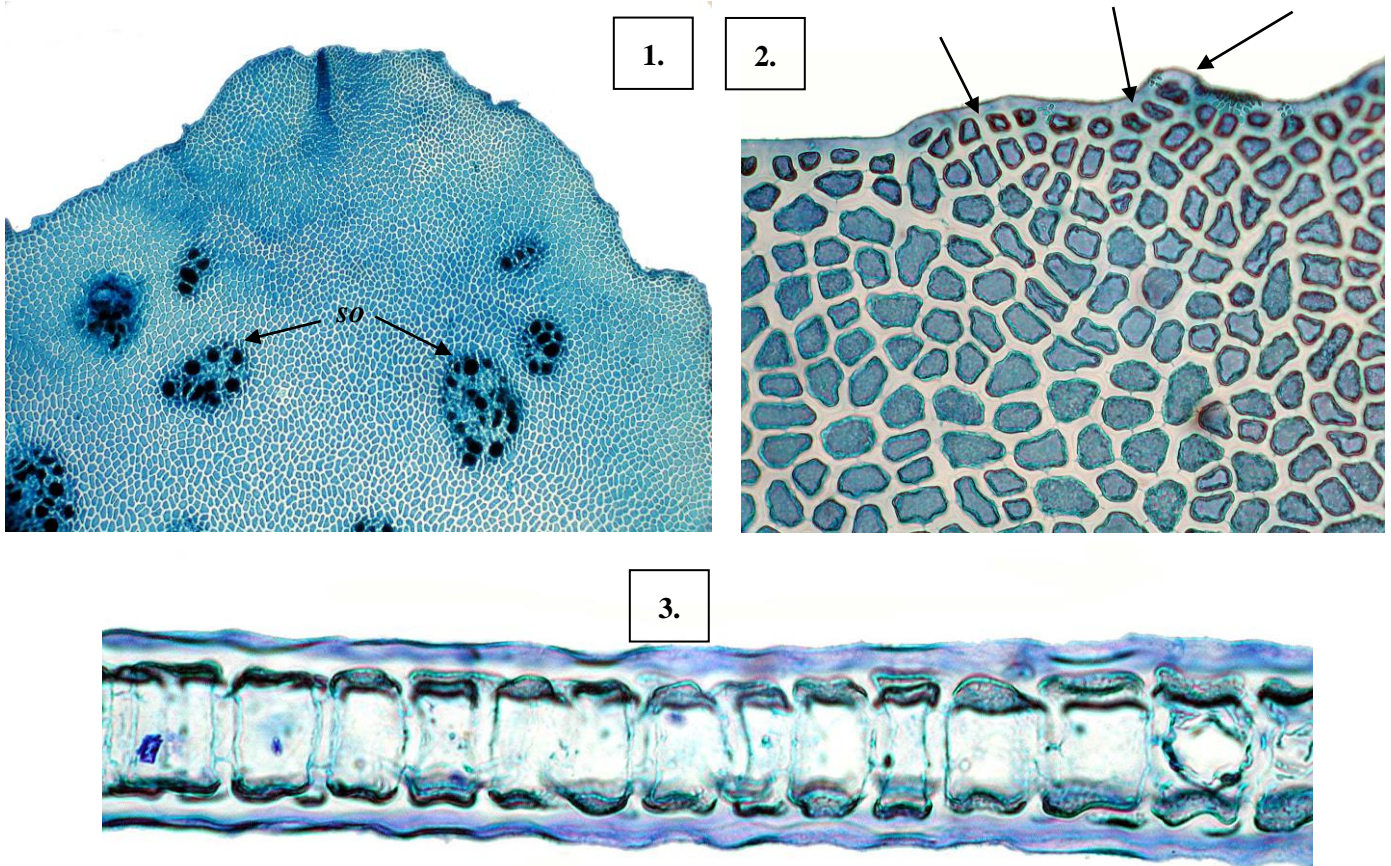
Similar Species

mostly from Tasmania, also in Victoria and at Port Elliot, S Australia on seagrasses

superficially similar to *Kallymenia* spp, but blades of those species are several cell layers thick and have a core of fine threads

Description in the Benthic Flora Part IIID, pages 119-122

Details of Anatomy

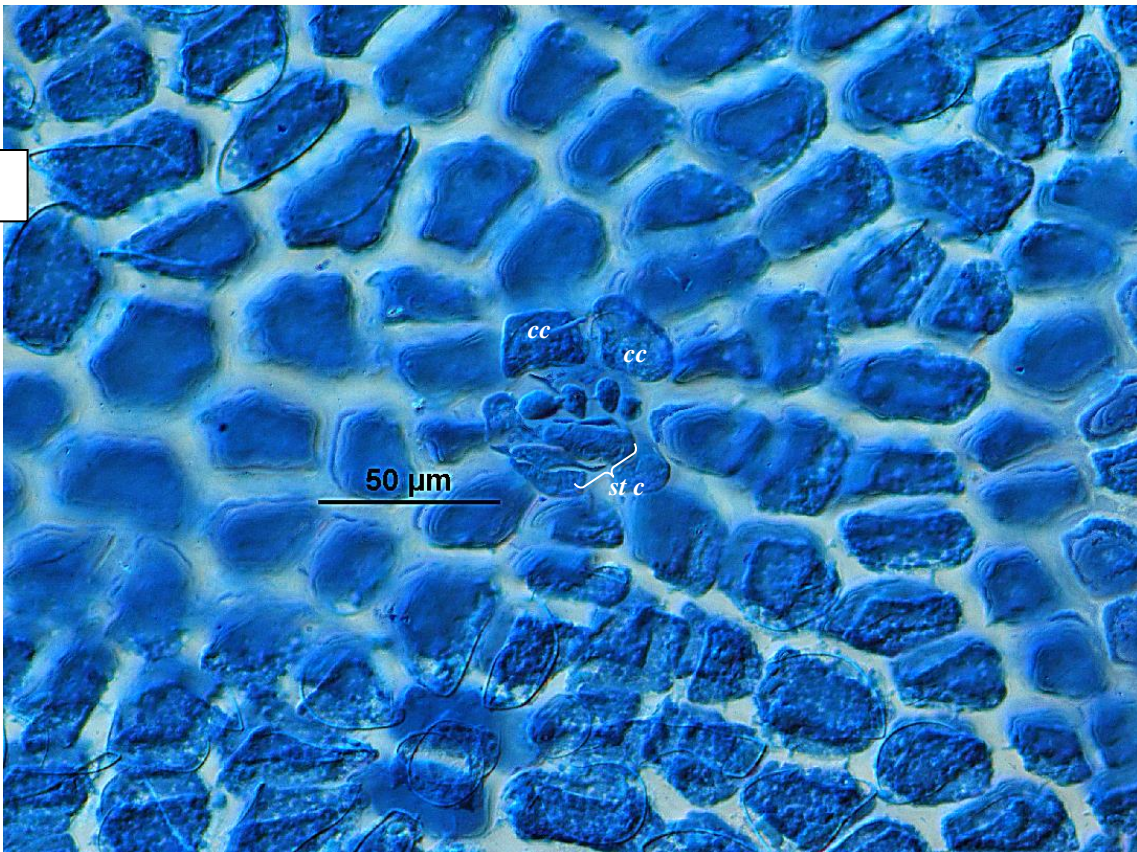


1. blade tip (slide 19542): ruffled but generally smooth edge; lack of veins; scattered patches (sori, *so*) of tetrasporangia
2. detail of a blade edge (slide 19542): fringe of cells (arrowed) that divides producing short rows or randomly arranged cells that make up the blade
3. cross section of a blade (slide 19545): single layer of cells

4.



5.



4. *Nitophyllum crispum* (Kützling) J Agardh, A68979, from 1-6m deep on the Tranmere Reef, Derwent Estuary, Tasmania
5. surface view of a young female structure (procarp) stained blue and viewed microscopically (slide 18278): chain of 4 cells (carpogonial branch), group of sterile cells (*st c*), 2 cover cells (*cc*), features by which the Group is diagnosed