**Nitophyllum crispum**  
(Kützing) J Agardh

**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**
Mostly from Tasmania, also in Victoria and at Port Elliot, S Australia

**Usual Habitat**
On seagrasses

**Similar Species**
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 IID, 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

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used  
“Algae revealed”, R N Baldock, State Herbarium S Australia, March 2003; additions August 2007; edited April 2014
4. *Nitophyllum crispum* (Kützing) 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

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