**Phycodrys australasica**

Millar

### Techniques needed and shape

### Classification

Division: Rhodophyta; Family: Delesseriaceae; Tribe: Nitophylloideae

Group: *Phycodrys*

### *Descriptive name*

a Veined Cellophane Plant

### Features

- plants dark red, 30-80mm tall, branching dense, of flat, (complanate), thin, narrow main blades 3-5mm wide, edged in sparse minute spines with midline veins apparent in lower parts of the plant only. Disc- or lance-shaped bladelets, narrow at the base, arise from main blade edges

### Special requirements

- view blades microscopically to find:
  - a single apical cell dividing to continue the growth of the blade
  - midline veins several cells thick; obscure opposite pairs of side veins
  - edges of blades consisting of a single layer of cells (monostromatic)
  - in sporangial plants sporangia found in patches (sori) at blade edges and surfaces

### Occurrences

- widely distributed from northern W Australia, southern Australia to NSW and Lord Howe Island

### Usual Habitat

- found throughout the year on rock, from shallow water to 15m

### Similar Species

*Apoglossum* but this is more delicate and has scattered microscopic veins

### Description in the Benthic Flora

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### Details of Anatomy

1. Blade tip: apical cell (a) that produces a blade 1cell thick (monostromatic); faint line of cells (l) that becomes a midline vein

2. Bladelets, basally narrow, at the edge of a main blade; patches of tetrasporangia (arrowed)

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3, 4. two magnifications of *Phycodrys australasica* Millar, A39370, from Crawfish Rock, Westernport Bay, Victoria, 5-10m deep.

5. side blade (dark field imaging slide 71207): toothed margins, broad midline vein many-cells thick, faint, opposite, paired side veins (visible only under the microscope).