**Classification**  
Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Rhodymeniales; Family: Rhodymeniaceae  
§ a red forkweed

**Features**
1. plants red, fading to grey-red, 40-100 (-300) mm long; blades 2-5 mm wide above, **narrowing** to long, thin, cylindrical **stalks** arising from a tangled mass of runners. Blade tips rounded or older ones ending in long, **thin extensions** (response to grazing?).
2. ball-shaped mature female structures (cystocarps), if present, protruding from blades

**Occurrences**  
West I., S Australia to Victoria, around Tasmania, NSW, Queensland. New Zealand shaded intertidal pools to 16 m deep, on rock

**Usual Habitat**  
shaded intertidal pools to 16 m deep, on rock

**Special requirements**
1. cut cross sections of blades and examine microscopically to find
   - narrow outer (cortical) layers of small cells facing outwards, grading to large inner (medulla) cells **loosely** arranged  
   - scattered, diffuse patches of tetrasporangia, sporangia divided decussately, mixed with small outer (cortical) cells  
   - egg-shaped or beaked mature female structures (cystocarps) protruding from blades with inner wall of large, loosely arranged cells and outer wall of small, tightly-packed cells; a single depressed external opening (ostiole), mass of carposporangia and a small group of basal nutritive cells
2. cut cross sections of runners and examine microscopically to find a broad core

**Similar Species**
*Rhodymenia prolificans* but that has narrow tips and numerous short side branches

**Description in the Benthic Flora**
Part III, pages 72-73

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**Rhodymenia leptophylla** J Agardh

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**Techniques needed and plant shape**

**Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Rhodymeniales; Family: Rhodymeniaceae**

**§** name used in Edgar, G. *Australian Marine Life, 2nd Ed.* (2008) for other *Rhodymenia* species

“Algae Revealed”, R N Baldock, State Herbarium S Australia, November 2010; edit November 2013
Rhodymenia leptophylla J Agardh showing variations in shape of plants from S Australia (#5-7, A63857 drift plants from Port MacDonnell; #8, 9 A63255 from intertidal pool edges, Cape Lannes)

5. whole plant showing basal runner, narrow blades and forked tips
6. young, broad blade tips
7. older blade tips with thin extensions
8. whole plant showing bunches of forked blades from a basal runner
9. single blade showing the characteristic basal narrowing and white, encrusting bryozoans

§ name used in Edgar, G. *Australian Marine Life, 2nd Ed.* (2008) for other *Rhodymenia* species

“Algae Revealed”, R N Baldock, State Herbarium S Australia, November 2010; edit November 2013