Techniques needed and shape

Classification

Phylum: Rhodophyta; Family: Delesseriaceae; Tribe: Nitophylloideae; Group: Myriogramme

*Descriptive name

frilly blades

Features

Plants red-brown, 100-200mm tall, leaf-like, flat-branched; basal parts consist of short, thin stalks up to 10mm long bearing at their ends several tall, lance-shaped, thin, blades with ruffled, wavy edges and forked veins

Occurrences

apparently restricted to SE Tasmania

Usual Habitat

limited information is available, but probably a shallow water estuarine species

Similar Species

Schizoseris dichotoma from New Zealand, but that is more forked with thicker veins

Description in the Benthic Flora

Part III, pages 114-117

Special Requirements

view microscopically to find:

- at blade edges, fringing dividing cells, blades one cell thick except at veins and reproductive regions
- female structures (not shown below) form scattered swellings with small openings
- sporangial plants (not shown) with scattered, egg-shaped tetrasporangial patches
- male plants with patches of spermatangia. These are produced, in the outer cell layers of blades, in blocks corresponding to the generative cells

Details of Anatomy

male plants of Schizoseris hymenena (Zanardini) Womersley stained blue and viewed microscopically

1. a surface view of the blade edge: fringing, very small dividing cells (arrowed), patches (sori, so) of spermatangia and the start of a vein (v) (slide 15396)
2. a cross section showing the blocks of spermatangia above generative cortical cells (sp bl) (slide 15397)

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

two magnifications of *Schizoseris hymenena* (Zanardini) Womersley (A64398) 4-5m deep, from Cloudy Lagoon, Tasmania: prominent veins, forked near the blade bases, blades frilly

surface microscope view of *Schizoseris hymenena* (slide 15396) stained blue showing a wide vein with a fork (*arrowed*) on the lower side

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