**Sonneropelta coriacea**

Womersley & Sinkora

Techniques needed and shape

**Classification**

*Descriptive name*

**Features**

Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Gigartinales; Family: Peyssoneliaceae

§ red sea fan

1. plants dark red, 50-200mm long and sometimes broader.
2. a single or several split leathery, flat, fan-shaped blades spread from a short stalk of interwoven threads;
3. blades have a thicker margin and concentric rings. The underside is felty with a covering of yellowish rhizoids

**Occurrences**

Usual Habitat

New Zealand. In Australia, from the Great Australian Bight to Port Phillip, Victoria in deep water or reef shaded overhangs or caves

Special requirements

1. cut a cross section along a radius of a blade and view microscopically to find threads (multicellular filaments) arising near the blade underside, curving upwards and downwards to form two asymmetric layers and rhizoids on the underside
2. if possible cut a section through patches (nemathecia) on upper blade surfaces of sporangial plants. Tetrasporangia are divided in a cross (cruciate) pattern and lack intermingled hairs a feature separating Peyssonelia from Sonneropelta

**Similar Species**

Peyssonelia novae-hollandiae, but that species is mainly prostrate, has internal threads that curve upwards only and tetrasporangia are intermingled with hairs

**Description in the Benthic Flora**

Part IIIA, pages 151-153, 156

**Details of Anatomy**

1. threads curve upwards
2. origin of threads
3. threads curve downwards
4. rhizoids

Diagnosis can be difficult as fertile plants are rare

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

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

“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium November 2009
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4 - 6. different magnifications and upper and lower surfaces of specimens of *Sonderopelta coriacea* Womersley & Sinkora (A56402) from 1m deep, in a shaded pool, Nora Creina Point, S Australia

7. a plant with single large blade (A70032) from Althorpe I., S Australia

rhizoids forming a felty layer on the under-side of a blade