**Techniques needed**

**Classification**

*Descriptive name*

**Features**

Division: Phaeophyta; Family: Dictyotaceae; Tribe: Zonarieae

- rare brown straps

1. plants are dark brown, 80-160 mm long, flat-bladed and irregularly branched
2. hair tufts are scattered across the blades; blade edges may be sparsely toothed
3. there are no central veins

**Occurrences**

the Gulf regions of S Australia

**Usual Habitat**

a little known species from 6m deep. Fertile plants are unknown.

**Similar Species**

Taonia, Dictyota diemensis and Dilophus. A cross section viewed microscopically is needed to confirm identification

**Description in the Benthic Flora**

**Special Requirements**

1. .view plant tips microscopically to see the short lines of dividing cells (meristems) at rounded or slightly depressed blade tips
2. cut a cross section of a blade and view microscopically to find:
   - the innermost part (medulla) of large cells, in 5-6 irregularly arranged rows
   - outermost layers (cortex) of small cells that may be divided outwardly
   - numerous hair tufts with the bases of hairs sunken into the blade

**Details of Anatomy**

*Spatoglossum australasicum* viewed microscopically

1. surface view of a specimen stained blue showing two lines of growth (meristems) (bracketed) and an hair tuft (ha) (A3289 slide 1423)
2. an unstained blade edge with detail of the line of dividing cells (meristem, bracketed) that continue the growth of the blade (A34905 slide 9823)
3. a cross section of a blade stained blue, showing the un-ordered rows of large middle (medulla, med) cells, small outermost (cortical, co) cells, hair tuft (ha) with hair bases sunken into the blade (arrowed) (A34905 slide 9823)

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

“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, January 2009
4, 5. Two magnifications of *Spatoglossum australasicum* Kützing, (A34905) from 6m deep at Tiparra Reef, S Australia, showing the sparsely toothed blade edges and scattered hair tufts.