**Stictosporum nitophylloides**  
(Harvey) J Agardh

**Techniques needed and shape**

**Classification**

*Descriptive name*

**Features**

1. plants are dark red to red-brown, 80-150mm tall, **not** jelly-like, **flat-branched** with **forked** flat blades edged with **tin**, **evenly** spaced, forked points about 1mm long  
2. lower blades are 50-100mm wide

**Occurrences**

near Perth, w Australia to Kangaroo I., S Australia

**Usual Habitat**

a deep water species (30m) mainly from western waters

**Similar Species**

*Gloiothyllis*, but in *Stictosporum* the fronds are wider, more leathery (**not** jelly-like) and have characteristic marginal spines

**Description in the Benthic Flora**

Part IIIA, pages 428-431

**Special Requirements**

1. view fronds microscopically to see  
   - **lack** of cell rings (rosettes) on the surface  
   - **single** cells at the tips of spines, **sunken** in minute pits  
2. cut a slice of a blade and view microscopically to find:  
   - central threads forming a core or medulla  
   - flanking, outer or cortex layers each of, **large** many-sided cells  
3. find female plants with large, spherical swellings protruding on **both** sides of the fronds. Cut a cross section if possible to view:  
   - **central** masses of angular sporangia  
   - a **distinct wall** (pericarp) of rows of outwardly facing cells  
   - a single opening (ostiole)  
4. if possible, find **large**, characteristically squat (ovoid) tetrasporangia scattered near the surface, divided across into four sporangia (**zonate**)

**Details of Anatomy**

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  

*Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used  
“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, October 2008
Specimens of *Stictosporum nitophylloides* (Harvey) J Agardh
5. 6. from 25m deep, 1km S of Dog I., Nuyts Archipelago, S Australia (A69527). # 6 shows detail of regular edge spines
7. a drift plant from Vivonne Bay, Kangaroo I., S Australia (A68414)
8. an interference microscope surface view of a blue stained specimen showing detail of the forked spines and lack of cell rings (rosettes) (A50123 slide 13147)

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