Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification
Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Ulvales; Family: Ulvaceae

*Descriptive name
bunched sea lettuce; southern sea lettuce

Features
plants light green above, darker below, 40-200mm tall, of several sheet-like blades branched near the plant base, blades only slightly longer than broad, edges without microscopic teeth, plant base with thick mass of rhizoids

Special requirements
view a cross section of a blade microscopically to see 2 sheets of cells and cells longer than broad

Occurrences
throughout southern Australia

Usual Habitat
usually on moderately rough coasts in the lower intertidal and upper subtidal

Similar Species
Ulva lactuca but that species is rarer, found in calmer waters and has thinner blades with fewer rhizoids. U. rigida is similar but has generally fewer branches, and the margins are minutely toothed.

Description in the Benthic Flora
Part I, pages 141-3, 145

Details of Anatomy

1. torn base of a frond viewed from above, showing the thick central mass of rhizoids (slide 7498)
2. surface view of cells mainly randomly arranged (slide 7498)
3, 4. cross sections showing cells longer than broad (L/B ~ 1½) (slide 6582)

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, October 2003, additions October 2009
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5-7. specimens of *Ulva australis* Areschoug from S Australia (#5, A 71268; #6 A55448, 100mm deep on pontoon, Port; A53120, 8m deep between Granite I., and Wright I., Victor Harbor

8, 9. two microscope views of unstained preparations (A70443) (#8, surface view of cells, #9 cross section of a blade)