



MACRO
PLANT



Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Ulvales; Family: Ulvaceae

***Descriptive name**

sea lettuce

Features



plants light green, a *single* sheet-like blade, up to 150mm long and 10-100mm wide, edges *without* teeth and a central mass of rhizoids at the base

Variations

blade may be lobed

Special requirements



slice a blade across and view the cells microscopically to see:

1. blades consist of 2 layers of cells
2. cells *box-shaped*

Occurrences

world-wide, but not common in southern Australia

Usual Habitat

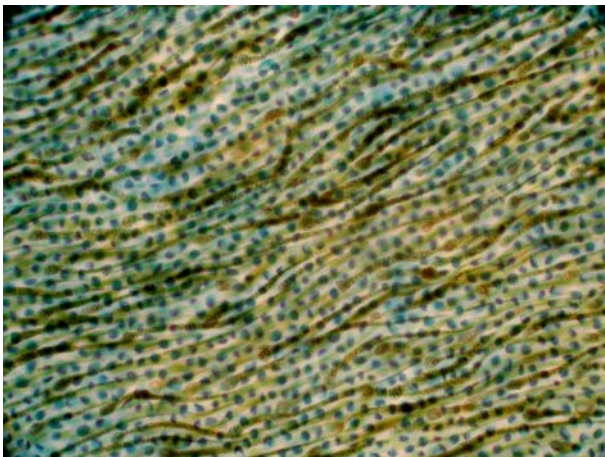
on *calm coasts*

Similar Species

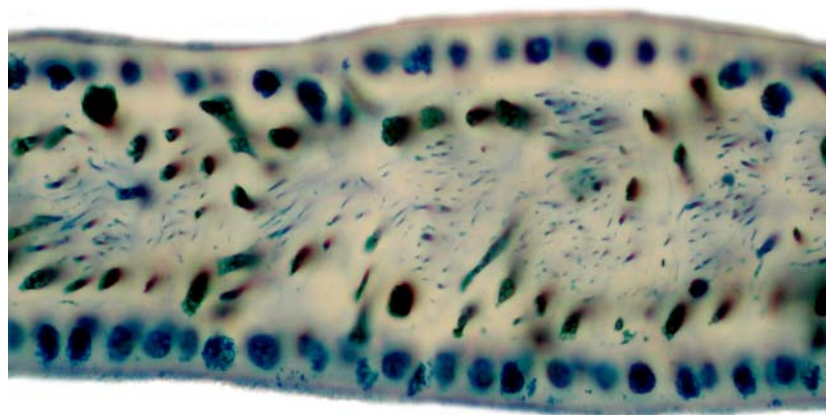
similar to *Ulva australis* but that species is common and found in rougher waters, has thicker blades with a larger mass of rhizoids. *U. rigida* which it also resembles has generally a few branches, and the margins are minutely toothed.

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 141, 143, 145

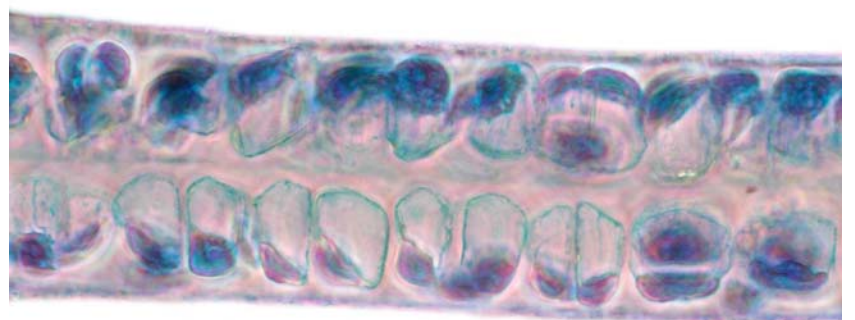
Details of Anatomy



1.



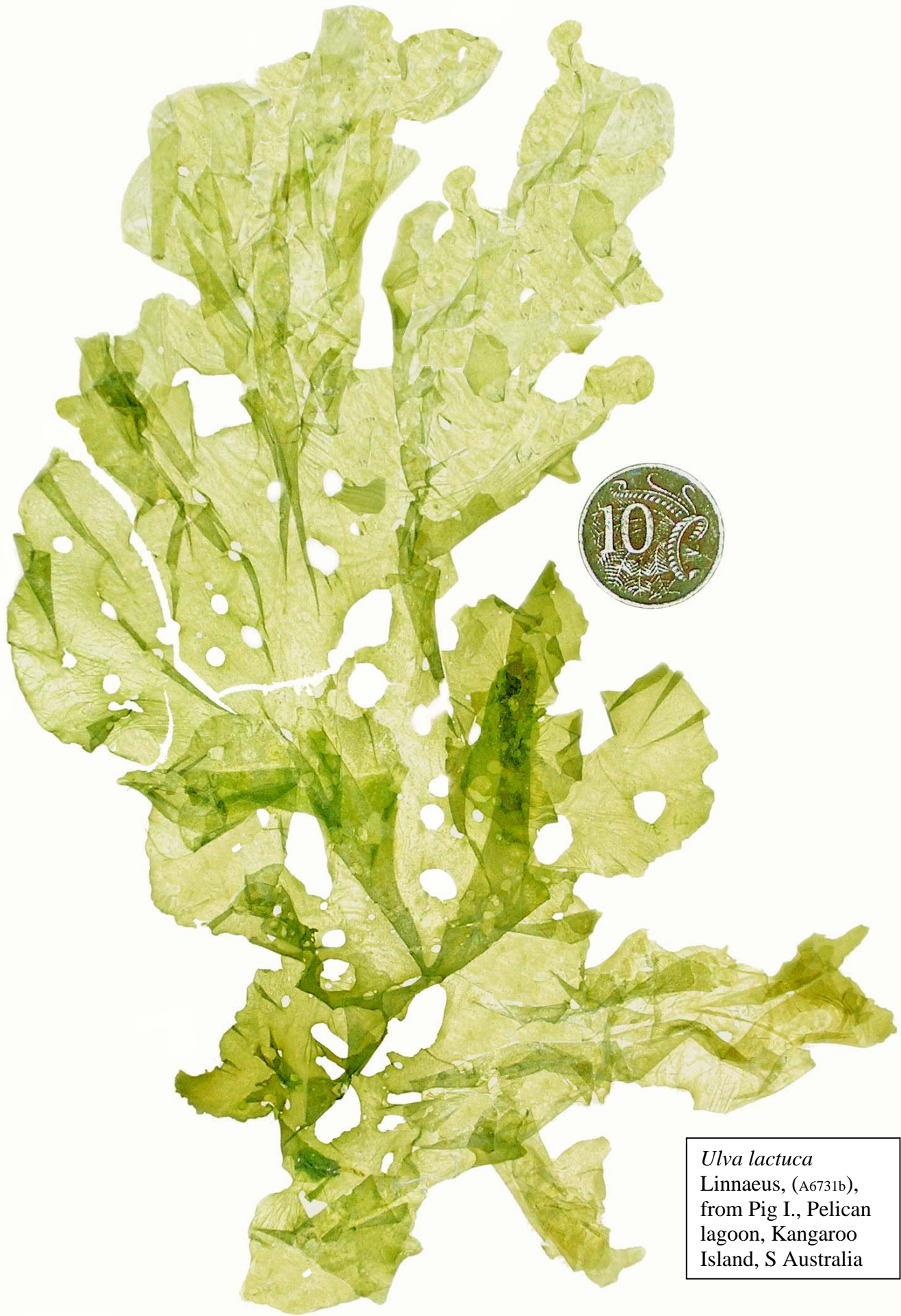
2.



3.

Ulva lactuca stained blue and viewed microscopically

1. surface view of the frond base showing the rhizoids (slide 6607)
2. cross section of a blade near the base showing the 2 layers of cells with some cells extending rhizoids into the central space between layer (slide 6607)
3. a slice across a blade showing the relatively large cells, L/B ~ 1 (box-shaped) with rounded corners (slide 6605)



Ulva lactuca
Linnaeus, (A6731b),
from Fig I., Pelican
lagoon, Kangaroo
Island, S Australia