*Descriptive name*  
Ulvaria oxysperma (Kützing) Bliding

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

**Features**  
plants yellow-green to bright green, translucent, 100-150mm tall, common, shaped like a lettuce leaf, as broad as long, edges sometimes ruffled, thin, but firm

**Special requirements**  
view the blades microscopically to find
- **one-layered** sheet of small, many-sided cells with rounded ends, irregularly arranged
- **short** rhizoids protruding from basal cells, anchoring plants to rocks

**Occurrences**  
cosmopolitan on temperate coasts; from West Coast, S Australia to Victoria and Tasmania

**Usual Habitat**  
usually on rock, mainly in winter

**Similar Species**  
*Ulva lactuca*, but that species is less common, has rows of equal-sided to elongate cells, and masses of rhizoids at the base. Microscope inspection shows *U. lactuca* has 2 cell-layers

**Description in the Benthic Flora**  
Part I, pages 137-139

**Details of Anatomy**

* Ulvaria oxysperma (slide 7490) viewed under phase microscopy
  1. torn edge of a blade near its base, showing cells (arrowed) with short outgrowths that act as attachment rhizoids
  2. blade centre showing the single cell layer and irregularly arranged cells with straight sides (polygonal) or with rounded ends characteristic of the genus

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

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

**Ulvaria oxysperma** (Kützing) Bliding, (A31874). from Kellidie bay, Coffin Bay, S Australia, mid-intertidal on rocks