Webervanbossea tasmanensis
Womersley

Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification
*Descriptive name
Features

Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Rhodymeniales; Family: Rhodymeniaceae
sausage weed

1. plants red-brown, fading to grey-red, of clumps of jelly-filled club- or finger-shaped
   sacs of variable length, 40-100 (300) mm long, narrowing suddenly to a very short stalk,
   occasionally with small balloon-shaped side branches
2. sporangia if present, in scattered raised patches

Occurrences
Usual Habitat
Special requirements

Spencer Gulf, S Australia to N and SE Tasmania; S New Zealand
shallow to deep water on rock, seagrasses and algae

1. focus through the surface of segment walls microscopically to find branched threads of
   the inner (medulla) layers with secretory cells
2. cut cross sections and examine segment walls to find
   • outer (cortical) cells small, branched 2-3 times, facing outwards
   • larger inner (medulla) cells in a single row, some producing in-growing
     branched threads with secretory cells
   • raised patches of tetrasporangia, sporangia divided decussately
     or in a cross pattern, mixed with hairlike outer (cortical) cells (paraphyses)
   • mature female structures (cystocarps) mainly protruding into the segment space,
     a prominent row of large medulla cells at the base, rows of small cells forming a
     wall (pericarp), single external opening (ostiole), mass of carposporangia with
     basal pyramid of small nutritive cells and threads

Similar Species

Gloiosaccion brownii but that species is more common and has single secretory cells
borne directly on medulla cells

Description in the Benthic Flora
Part IIIB, pages 64-66

Cross sections of Webervanbossea tasmanensis stained blue and viewed microscopically

1. part of a sac wall with outer layer (cortex, co) of small
   branched cells, inner layer of large cells (medulla, med),
   branched threads (med fil) bearing secretory cells (secr c)
   protruding into the sac space (sac sp) (A68767 slide 19361)

2. part of a patch (nemathecium, nem) of tetrasporangia (t sp)
   amongst branched chains of small cells (paraphyses, par) (A68767 slide 19362)

3. mature female structure (cystocarp, cys) protruding into
   the sac space with basal large medulla cells (med c) mass
   of carposporangia, (ca sp) and rows of small cells forming
   an outer wall (pericarp, peri) (A68767 slide 19361)

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4. *Webervanbossea Tasmanensis* Womersley on *Amphibolis antarctica*, 5-7m deep, between Wright and Granite Is, Victor Harbor (A52826)
5. 4-8m deep, SE side of Hope I., Port Esperance, SW Tasmania (A64078), showing branching at the very base and scattered patches of sporangia
6. a drift plant from Ringa Ringa, Stewart I., New Zealand, showing small side branches (A29837)
7. specimen stained blue and viewed microscopically showing a raised patch of sporangia (nemathecium) (A68767 slide 19363)

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