

Techniques needed and plant shape



MACRO  
PLANT

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Caulerpales;  
Family: Udoteaceae

\*Descriptive name

fibrous felt plant; § green seafan

Features

plants dark green to brown-green, 100-250mm tall, often with a matted base from which 1-8 upright, flat, *coarsely matted* blades arise

Variations



blades often have concentric zones across them

Special requirements



1. tease out threads from the blade and view them microscopically. There are *no cross walls* (the plant is coenocytic) and *no cross connections* between threads
2. threads are relatively *coarse* (35-55µm across), often with *wavy edges*
3. threads are *constricted* where they fork (at the dichotomies)

Occurrences

SW W. Australia to Aldinga, S. Australia

Usual Habitat

growing in deep water (14-27m) or in murky, shallow water, usually in sand

Similar Species

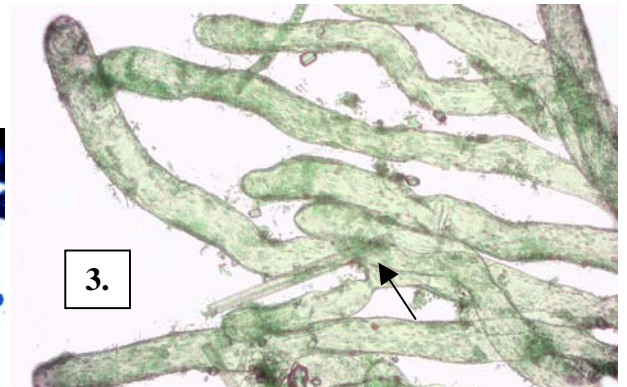
*Rhipiliopsis* species, but these are smaller, and their threads have side connections (although these are sometimes difficult to see)

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 249, 251-253

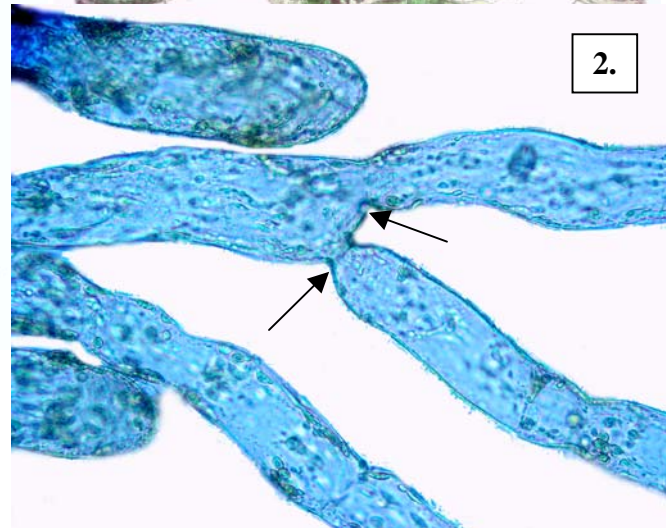
Details of Anatomy



1.



3.



2.

Threads of *Avrainvillea clavatiramea* (A52785) teased out from a blade and viewed microscopically

- 1, 2. stained with aniline blue at different magnifications showing their coarse, matted nature, forked branching, slightly wavy edges and pinching at the forks (dichotomies)
3. unstained, showing undivided (coenocytic) threads and plastids

\* 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, June 2005

*Avrainvillea clavatiramea* Gepp & Gepp (A52785) from Aldinga, S. Australia



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