

Blidingia minima
(Naegeli ex Kützing) Kylin

50.470

Techniques needed and plant shape



Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Ulvales; Family: Ulvaceae

***Descriptive name**

false *Enteromorpha*

Features



1. plants pale to dark green, in **tufts** to 50mm tall, of thin threads, growing **in winter**
2. each plant grows from a **basal pad**

Special requirements



1. view the irregularly arranged **small cells** (5-8µm across)
2. chloroplasts are **single** and **central** in each cell and have a **single** pyrenoid (difficult to see microscopically)
3. threads are cylindrical and **hollow**



Diagnosis can be difficult

Occurrences

from Pt Lincoln to mid NSW coast (and probably more widespread according to Womersley)

Usual Habitat

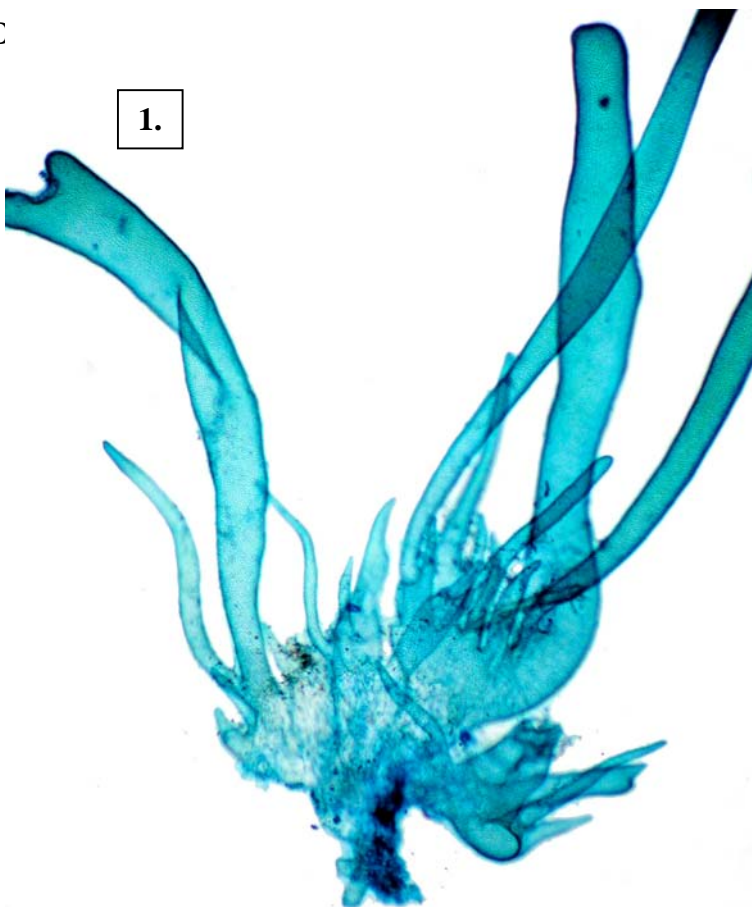
in the upper or mid-**intertidal** on rock, in calm situations

Similar Species

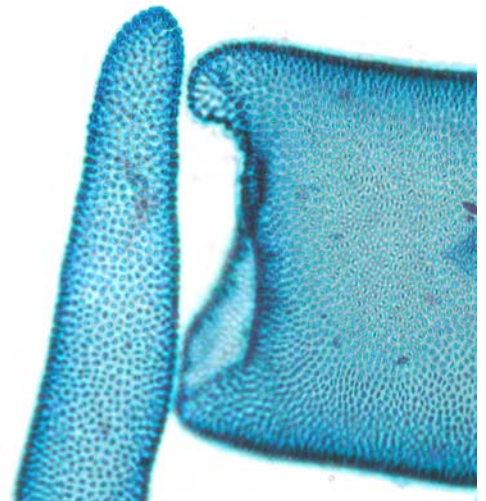
Enteromorpha species (especially *E. ralfsii*, *E. paradoxa*) but cells of *Blidingia* are very small, and threads are anchored to the substrate by a **pad of tissue** (not by rhizoids)

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 137, 139, 150

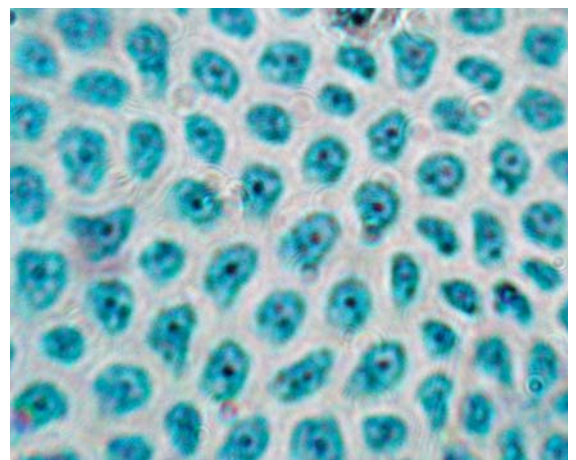
I



2.



3.



- 1-3. Specimens of *Blidingia minima* (slide 7502) stained blue and viewed microscopically
1. whole plant showing tufts arising from a basal pad
 2. tip of a branch and another torn across to show its cylindrical, hollow structure. Both illustrate the relatively small cells present
 3. cell detail showing the irregular arrangement, and central pyrenoid of the chloroplast of each cell.



Blidingia minima (Naegeli ex Kützing) Kylin, (A13282b) Outer Harbour, S Australia
in the upper intertidal on the breakwater