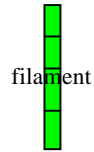


Bryopsis australis Sonder

50.670



MICRO
PLANT



Techniques needed and shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Bryopsidaceae

*Descriptive name

delicate shining green tufts

Features

1. plants are bright green, *shining* when dry, 10 – 40mm tall,
2. *several* main upright stalks(axes) arise from a mass of branched rhizoids
3. ultimate branches (ramuli) are in a *single* row or in **2 rows** usually near the tips with the stalks denuded below



Variations

additional ultimate branches (ramuli) may occur *between* the more uniform rows



Special requirements:



1. view the rarely-divided (*coenocytic*) filaments microscopically
2. measure the stalks (axes): they should be about **0.5mm** across

Occurrences

from SW W. Australia and Kangaroo I., S. Australia

Usual Habitat

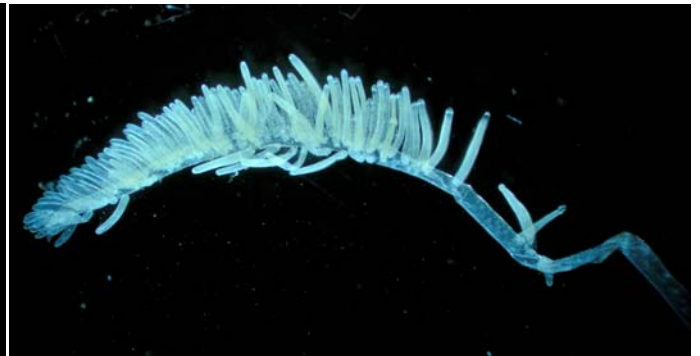
on intertidal rock

Similar Species

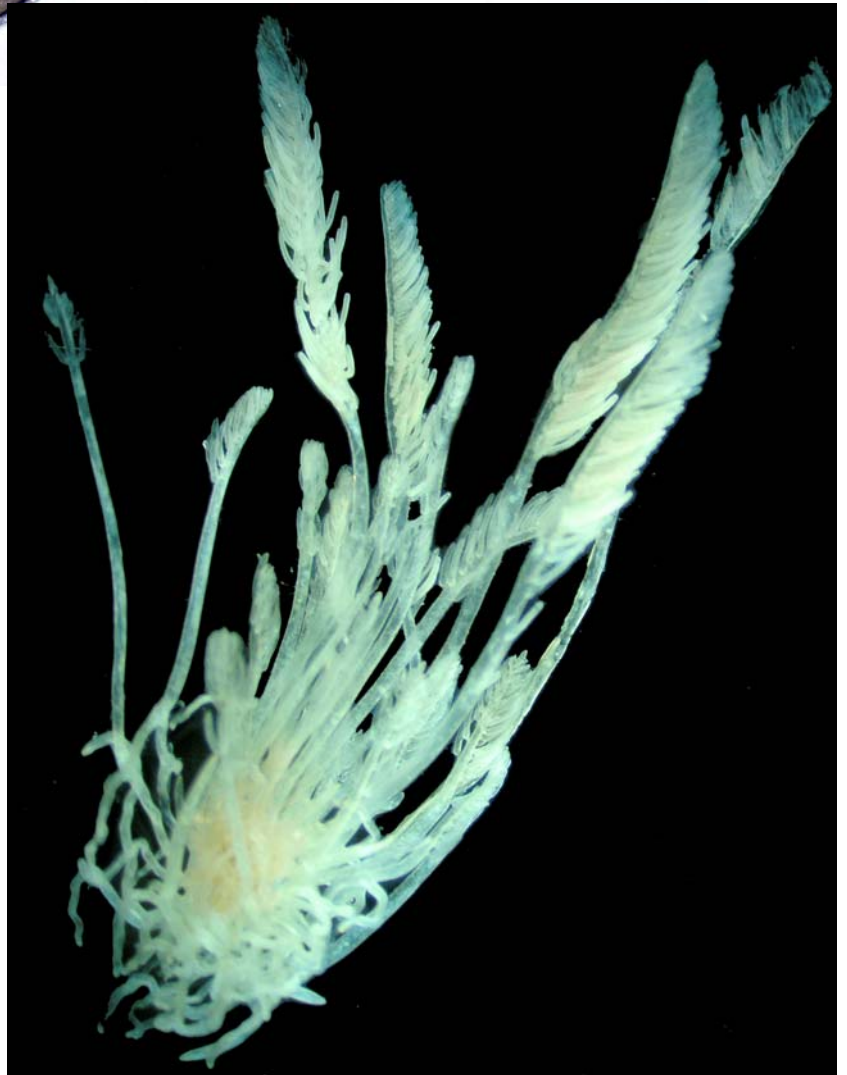
Bryopsis gemellipara has similar branching patterns, but is larger with thicker axes

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 283-285

Details of Anatomy



- 1-3. Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Bryopsis australis* (A50705) from Rottneest I., W Australia
 1. dense apical tufts with radial branching and, below, one-sided branching (arrowed).
 2. tip of a side branch with mainly 2-sided branching of ramuli but also occasional additional ramuli interposed between the 2 rows. The ramuli all point upwards.
 3. detail of the 2 opposite rows of ramuli on an axis, characteristic of the species.



Bryopsis australis Sonder
(A50705) from Rottnest I.,
W. Australia

4. whole plants
5. a preserved, (bleached) specimen, magnified to show the basal tangled mass of rhizoids from which many upright main stalks (axes) arise bearing 1- and 2-sided ultimate branches (ramuli)