

Caulerpa cactoides
(Turner) C. Agardh

50.650



MACRO
PLANT



flat-branched



bladders

Techniques needed

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Caulerpaceae

*Descriptive name

§cactus Caulerpa

Features

1. plants green to dark green, 100-450mm tall
2. a **coarse, naked** runner produces tough, upright branches (axes) **pinched** into sections
3. **swollen, club-shaped** bladders (ramuli) 10-20mm long arise in **opposite pairs** from the expanded shoulders of segments of axes

Variations



1. constrictions on upright branches may give it a bead-like appearance in rough water forms
2. swollen bladders (ramuli) may **alternate**, and vary considerably in shape
3. pink coralline algae and tube-dwelling animals may coat the plant

Occurrences

Usual Habitat

from W Australia through southern Australia and Tasmania to S NSW
in rock pools and shallow water on rough water coasts, and on sand where plants
may cover extensive areas, to 38m deep

Similar Species

Caulerpa annulata but in that species bladders (ramuli) are smaller (4-10mm long) and the axes more definitely bead-like

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 269-271, 273

Details of Anatomy



1. A pressed and slightly shrunken specimen of *Caulerpa cactoides* (Turner) C. Agardh (A35181) from Carpenter Rocks, S. Australia showing the swollen, club-shaped bladders in two opposite rows along upright parts and a tough, yellowish, naked runner with rhizoids underneath

* 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, September 2003

2.



3.



4.



Specimens of *Caulerpa cactoides* (Turner) C. Agardh from S Australia:

- plants among bryozoan corals at Port Broughton (photo: D Muirhead)
- detail of the pinching along upright parts and swollen bladders (ramuli) from a plant at Edith burgh
- a pressed specimen from Carpenter Rocks, S. Australia (A35181)

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