



MACRO PLANT



Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Caulerpaceae

*Descriptive name

fluffy Caulerpa

Features

- 1. plants dark green, 60-220mm tall
- 3. upright branches (axes) arise from a *coarse, naked* runner
- 4. ultimate branches (ramuli) are *cylindrical*, dense, *branched*, on all sides of upright branches and may end in a point

Special requirements



view the ultimate-branches (ramuli): they are 2-3mm long and branch *a short distance* from the axis 3-5 times, into thin, linear parts up to 0.5mm across

Occurrences

from SW W. Australia to Pt Phillip Heads, Victoria

Usual Habitat

in shaded rock pools to 50m deep, on rough water coasts

Similar Species

Caulerpa obscura, but in that species ramuli fork where they join onto the upright branch (axis), end in a ring of 1-3 microscopic *points*, and the runner is covered in *short spines*

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 261, 263, 265

Details of Anatomy



Two magnified views of a preserved (bleached) and coloured specimen of *Caulerpa cliftonii* (A27340)

- 1. tip of an upright branch (axis), showing the crowded ultimate branches (ramuli) that obscure the branching pattern
- 2. dissected piece of axis, showing the cylindrical (terete) axis (*ax*) and an ultimate branch (ramulus) branched *several times* (1,2,3,4) with the alternating, linear parts. The ramulus branches a *short distance* (bracketted) from the axis – an important species feature

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, June 2005



Two magnifications of *Caulerpa cliftonii* Harvey, (A28958) from a shaded rock pool, Cape du Couedic, Kangaroo I., S Australia showing the dense branched ramuli that obscure the upright axes, and a naked runner (stolon, *stol*) from which the axes arise. One ramulus (circled) has been detached to show its branching pattern

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