



MACRO
PLANT



flat-branched

Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Caulerpaceae

*Descriptive name

knife-blade Caulerpa; §Elliston caulerpa

Features

1. plant green, 100-250mm tall
- 2 upright branches (axes) arise from a **robust naked** runner and are **branched** several times
3. ultimate branches (ramuli) are **flat, alternating** along 2 sides of upright branches, **narrow** where they attach,

Special requirements



1. ultimate branches (ramuli) are straight-sided on their **lower** edge, have a **convex upper edge** and come rapidly to a point
 2. older ramuli are separated by about the width of a ramulus – difficult to see as this may be obscured the broader middle parts of adjacent ramuli
- from near Perth, W. Australia to West coast S. Australia
in deep water (36-68m)

Occurrences

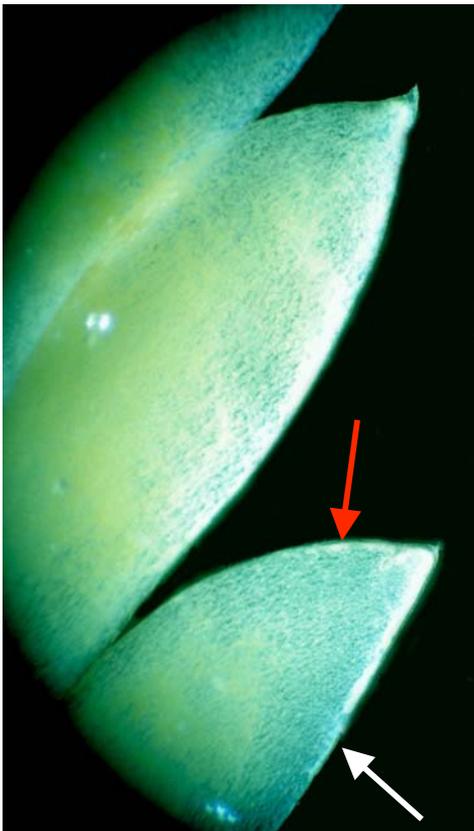
Usual Habitat

Similar Species

Caulerpa scalpelliformis, but in that species upright parts only **occasionally** branch, and in contrast to *C. ellistoniae*, ultimate branches (ramuli) are straighter on the **upper** edge, curved on **lower** edge and are usually broader **basally**

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 257, 259-260

Details of Anatomy



A preserved (bleached) and coloured specimen of *Caulerpa ellistoniae* (A13426), washed up at Elliston, S. Australia, showing 2 magnifications of young ramuli with straight lower edge (white arrow), a convex upper edge (red arrow) and a sharp point.



* 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



ultimate
branches
(ramuli)
separated
when old

upright branches (axes)
branched several times
over

Caulerpa ellistonae
Womersley
Elliston, S. Aus.
Drift.

Two magnifications of *Caulerpa
ellistoniae* Womersley (A13427),
washed up at Elliston,
S. Australia



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