

Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Caulerpaceae

*Descriptive name

fluffy caulerpa; §bushy caulerpa

Features



1. plant dark green, 100-300mm tall
2. upright branches (axes) arise from a *coarse*, runner, covered with *spines*
3. short side branches arising *radially* from axes are covered with *unbranched* cylindrical, ultimate branches (ramuli), giving the plant a fluffy appearance

Variations

1. upright branches (axes) are occasionally branched
2. the ultimate branches (ramuli) may be forked near their tips
3. ramuli may lie along the short side axes *in 2 rows* rather than irregularly

Special requirements

1. view microscopically the ultimate branches (ramuli), 2-10mm long and usually arranged *irregularly* along thin, short, side branches
2. view the *1-3* microscopic spines on ramuli tips

Occurrences

from SW W. Australia to Victoria and Tasmania

Usual Habitat

common in rock pools, to 35m deep, on rough water coasts

Similar Species

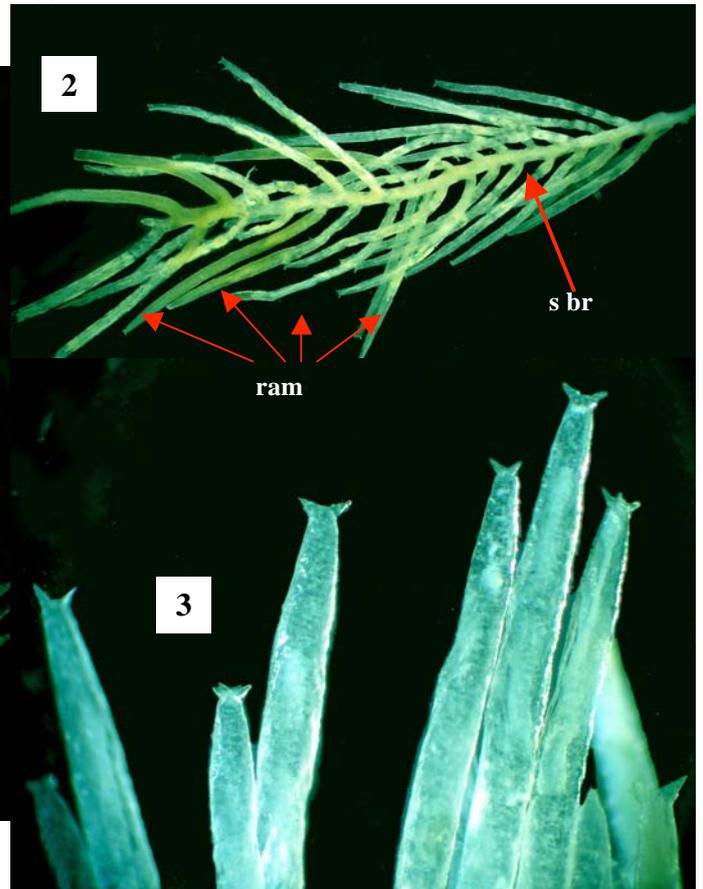
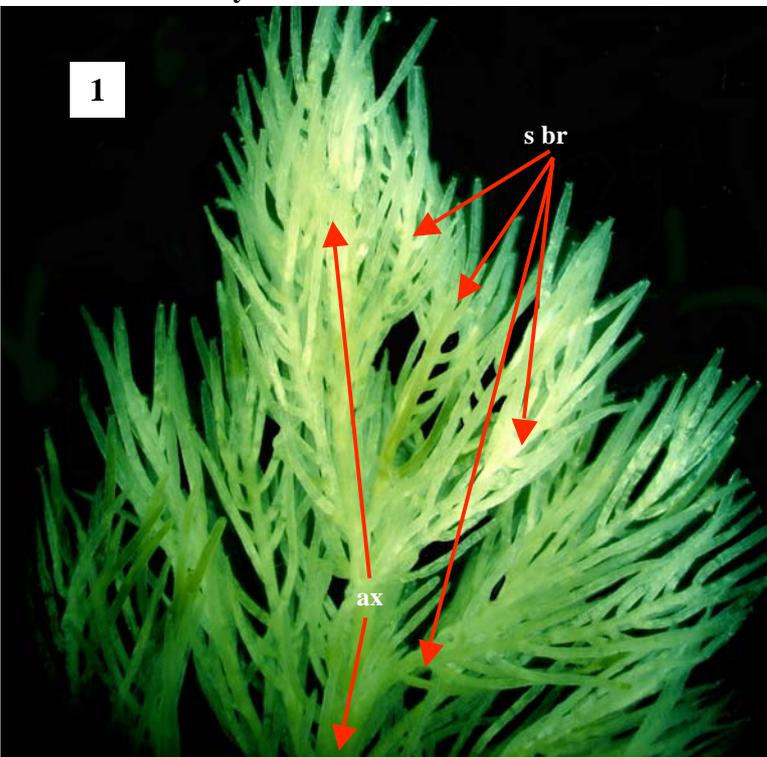


1. *Caulerpa cliftonii*, but in that species the runner is *naked* and ramuli are branched *1-3 times* a short distance from the axis.
2. *Caulerpa flexilis*, but in that species side branches occur in *2 rows*.

Description in the Benthic Flora

Part I, pages 261, 263, 265-266

Details of Anatomy



Magnified views of a preserved (bleached) and coloured specimen of *Caulerpa obscura* (A5704) from Kangaroo I., S. Australia.

1. near the tip of an upright branch (axis, *ax*) showing the radially arranged, short side branches (*s br*)
2. a detached, short, side branch, with simple ultimate branches (ramuli, *ram*) arranged radially
3. highly magnified view of ramuli tips, showing the 2 and 3 spines or points, characteristic of the species

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



Two magnifications of *Caulerpa obscura* Sonder (A13357), showing the coarse runner covered with tiny spines and upright branches (axes) clothed in short side branches densely covered with ultimate branches (ramuli)

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