



MACRO
PLANT



branching
in rows

tubular



Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Caulerpaceae

*Descriptive name

wispy caulerpa: §three-cornered caulerpa”

Features



1. plants green, 50-250mm tall
2. upright branches (axes) arise from a *slender* runner that has *scattered* spines
3. ultimate branches (ramuli) are *thin, cylindrical* and curved upwards usually in **3 rows** along the upright branches

Variations

1. there may be only **2 rows** of ramuli mainly on the young upright branches or at their bases
2. there may be *spines* at the bases of the upright branches

Special requirements



1. view microscopically ultimate branches (ramuli) that are *thin*, 3-5mm long and only 0.2-0.4mm thick, giving the branches a wispy appearance
2. ramuli are crowded together, in **3 rows**

Occurrences

Usual Habitat

from SW W. Australia to Victoria and Tasmania
2-19m deep on rock, jetty piles or mud and sand

Similar Species

superficially like small plants of *Caulerpa longifolia*, but that species has coarse, *smooth* runners, and the ramuli are coarser and in **5 rows**

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 261, 263, 264

Details of Anatomy



Specimens of *Caulerpa trifaria* from S Australia

1. bases of upright branches showing spines in 3 rows; (A72425) from Outer Harbour
2. plant apex showing the three rows (arrowed) of narrow ultimate branches, characteristic of the species (A71481), from Thevenard jetty, West coast (re-floated from a pressed herbarium specimen, hence somewhat shriveled and flattened)

* 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, August 2005

3.



3,4. Two magnifications of *Caulerpa trifaria* Harvey, (A33516) from 18m deep at Tapley Shoal, Gulf St Vincent, S Australia

4.



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