



Techniques needed, and shape

Classification

\*Descriptive name

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Cladophorales; Family: Cladophoraceae  
rough green threads (differing in touch to other softer thread-like green algae such as *Cladophora*)

Features



plants occur as numerous *fine, single*, dark green *unbranched* threads *attached* to rock or seagrass at their bases

Special requirements



view the threads microscopically to find:

1. threads increase in width *upwards* but reach *only* 250-600µm wide
2. threads are *attached* by an elongate cell *shorter* than 1mm
3. the length to breadth (L/B) of cells in upper thread parts = 0.5-1.5

Occurrences

cosmopolitan; in southern Australia, from Cape Leeuwin, W Australia to Tasmania

Usual Habitat

usually growing in the lower parts of the intertidal or shallow in moderately rough water, often where sand accumulates; occasionally on seagrass

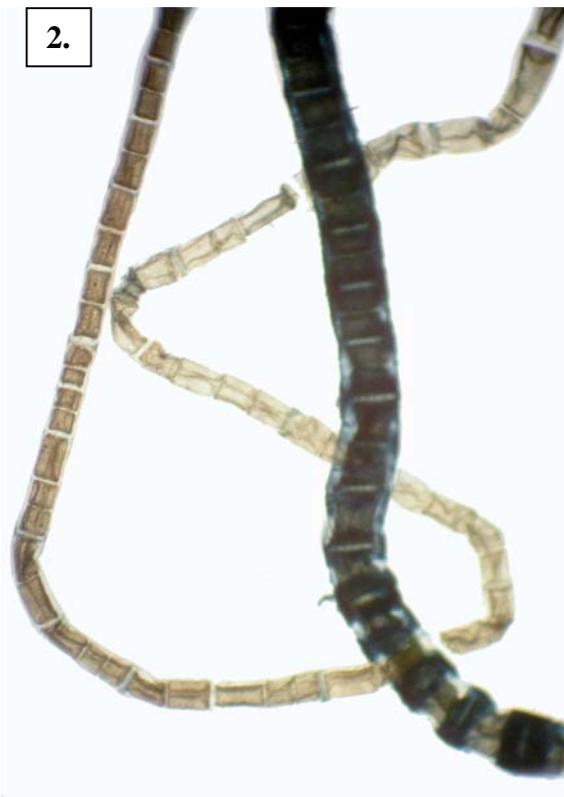
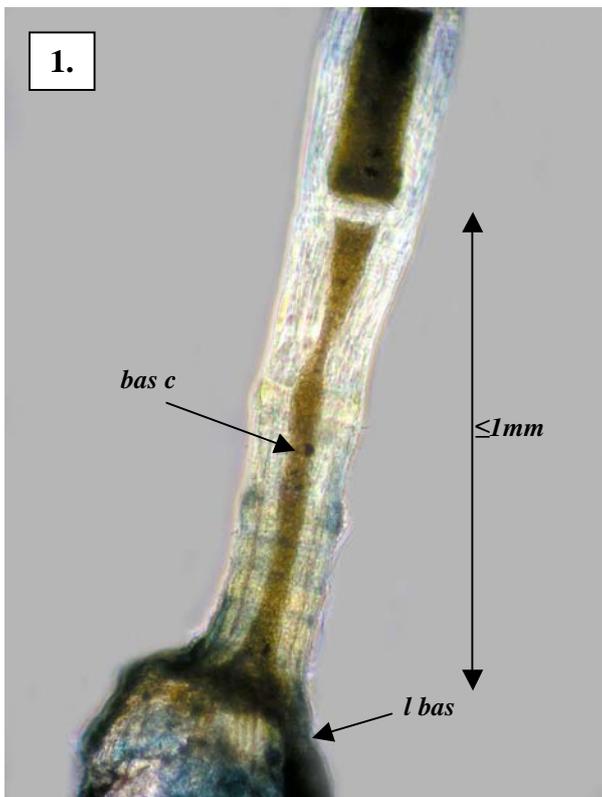
Similar Species

other *Chaetomorpha* spp with fine, hair-like threads, for example, *Ch. linum*.

*Ch. aerea* is attached, not floating, and the basal cell is less than 1mm long.

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 172-175

Details of Anatomy



*Chaetomorpha aerea* (A52987 slide 207132); a preserved specimen partly stained blue

1. a single elongate basal cell (*bas c.*) less than 1mm long, attached to a piece of seagrass blade by a lobed base (*l bas*)
2. differences in cell sizes along threads (lower magnification to #1)

3.



Chaetomorpha aerea (Dillw.) K

Port McDonnell, S. Aus.

Low littoral reef pools in b

19/8/1953

3. *Chaetomorpha aerea* (Dillwyn) Kützing, (A19034), from Port McDonnell, S Australia  
in lower intertidal rock pools