



Techniques needed and shape

Classification

*Descriptive name

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

Features



plants occur as tangled, green, **unattached**, woolly masses
in **shade on tidal flats**

Special requirements



view the threads microscopically to find:

1. threads are mostly **unattached**, fairly **straight** and 85-100µm wide
2. threads are the **same width** throughout their length
3. cells are box-shaped, with length to breadth (L/B) = 1-2

Occurrences



from the Mediterranean and N Atlantic. In southern Australia, from N Spencer Gulf, Kangaroo I. S Australia, to Gippsland, Victoria, and probably more widespread but un-observed

Usual Habitat

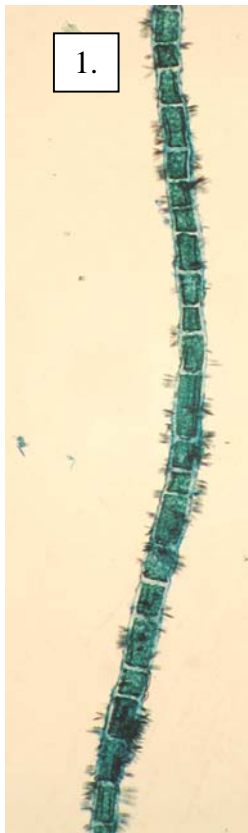
in shade on mangrove pneumatophores, or under samphires on tidal flats

Similar Species

other unattached *Chaetomorpha* spp with hair-like threads found on tidal flats, for example, *Ch. indica*, but *Ch. capillaris* filaments are finer and found in the mid- to upper-intertidal

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 178-180

Details of Anatomy



1. *Chaetomorpha capillaris* (slide 7444) stained blue showing box-shaped cells, L/B = 1-2 of straight, unbranched threads. The surface of this thread is covered with needle-like diatoms
2. *Chaetomorpha capillaris* (A58399) from American River inlet, Kangaroo I., S Australia, under samphires