



Techniques needed and shape

Classification

***Descriptive name**

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

Features



plants occur as tufts of **dark green, stiff** strands to 30mm tall, **attached** to rock

Special requirements



view the threads microscopically to find:

1. **stiff** threads 400-600µm wide are **attached**, by **rhizoids** and a lobed base (**holdfast**) on an **elongate** basal cell 2-3mm long and about 400µm wide
2. threads increase only **slightly** upwards
3. cells are box-shaped, with length to breadth (L/B) = 1-2

Occurrences

N. Europe and temperate N Atlantic Ocean. In southern Australia, from the Recherché Archipelago, W Australia and S coast, Yorke Pen., S Australia in the lower intertidal on rock, sometimes associated with sand

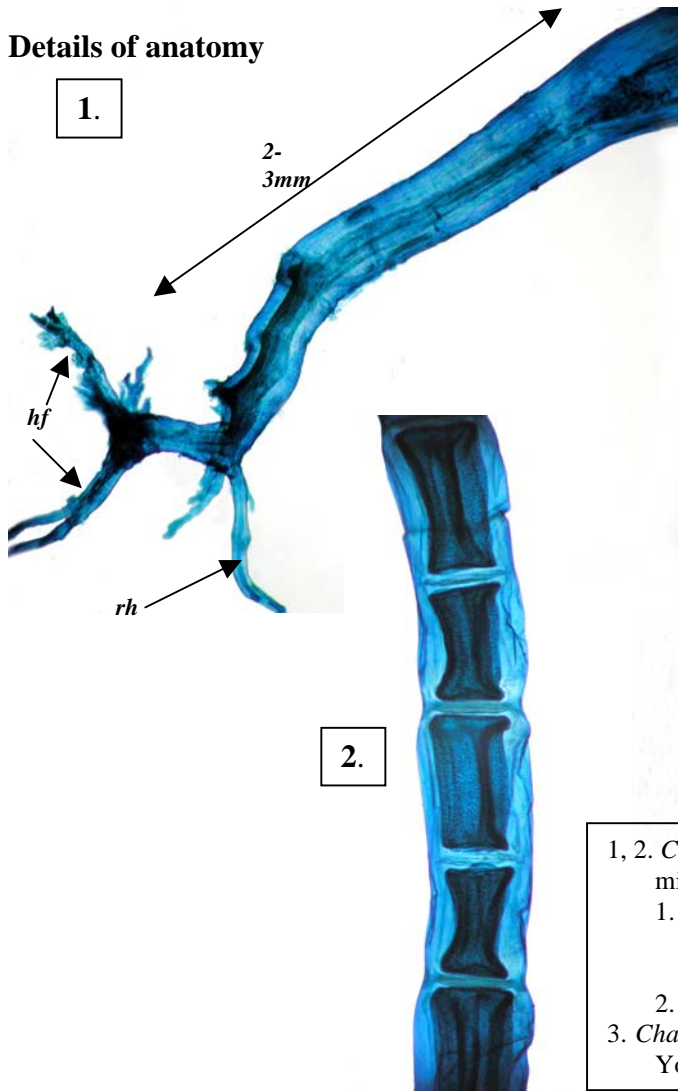
Usual Habitat

Similar Species

other attached *Chaetomorpha* spp with hair-like threads, in shallow, calm water, for example *Ch aerea*, but threads of *Ch aerea* are attached by elongate cells only 1mm long and less than 150µm wide, and increase in width upwards

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 173, 176, 179

Details of anatomy



1, 2. *Chaetomorpha melagonium* (7443) stained blue and viewed microscopically
 1. base of a thread showing the elongate basal cell (*bas c*), expanding at the tip, bearing rhizoids (*rh*) and a developing lobed basal holdfast (*hf*)
 2. a strand with box-shaped cells, L/B = 1.5-2.0
 3. *Chaetomorpha melagonium* (A24699) from Flat Rock Bay, S coast of Yorke Peninsula, S Australia on rock in the lower intertidal

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
 "Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, June 2007