



Techniques needed, and shape

Classification

***Descriptive name**

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

Features



plants occur as **dark green, unattached, curved**, tangled threads

Special requirements



view the threads microscopically to find:

1. threads are **unattached, curved, stiff** and 350-400µm wide
2. threads are the **same width** throughout their length and edges often **wavy** (“crisped”)
3. cells are **elongate**, with length to breadth (L/B) =2-3 (possibly more)

Occurrences

Stewart I., New Zealand. In southern Australia, from Venus Bay, S Australia to Tasmania

Usual Habitat

in shallow, sheltered water, often tangled with other algae

Similar Species

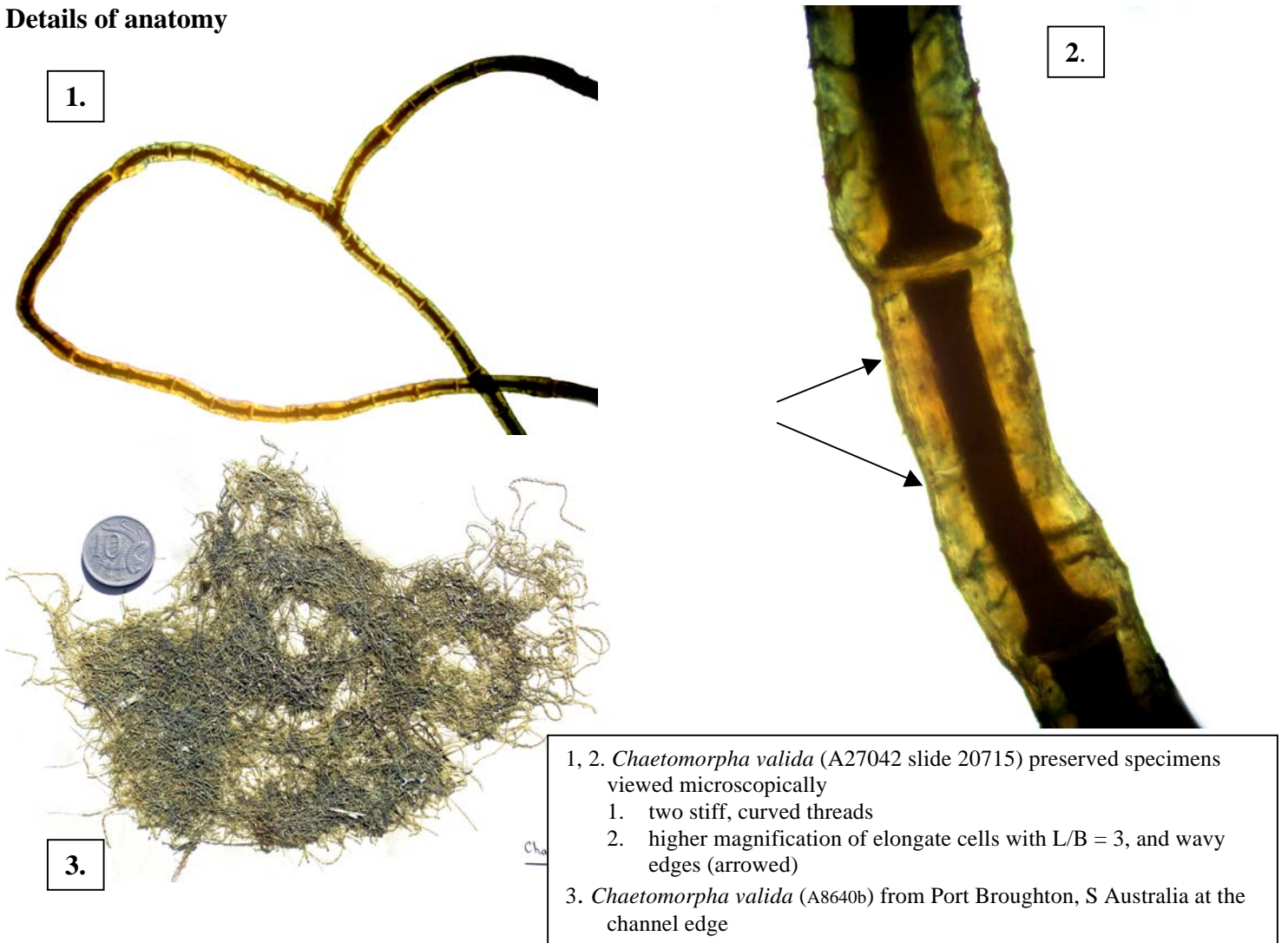
other unattached *Chaetomorpha* spp with hair-like threads, in shallow, calm water, for example *Ch. billardieri* is similar and fresh material is needed to separate the two species. *Ch. billardieri* is lighter green turning yellow-green, threads are limp and edges are **not** crisped



Description in the Benthic Flora

Part I, pages 177, 178, 179

Details of anatomy



1, 2. *Chaetomorpha valida* (A27042 slide 20715) preserved specimens viewed microscopically
 1. two stiff, curved threads
 2. higher magnification of elongate cells with L/B = 3, and wavy edges (arrowed)
 3. *Chaetomorpha valida* (A8640b) from Port Broughton, S Australia at the channel edge

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