



MICRO
PLANT



Techniques needed and shape

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Cladophorales; Family: Cladophoraceae

***Descriptive name**

false cushion-Cladophora

Features

plants green, of tangled, **branched** threads forming compact **cushions** about 150mm across

Special requirements



view the threads microscopically to find:-

1. upper cells of filaments may be very **long**
2. side branches occur as **outgrowths** of the main axis, diagnostic of the genus
3. rhizoids are produced from the **basal parts** of side branches

Occurrences

widespread, including New Zealand, Queensland, Chile and Thailand. In southern Australia, from Hopetoun, W Australia to Encounter Bay, S.A.

Usual Habitat

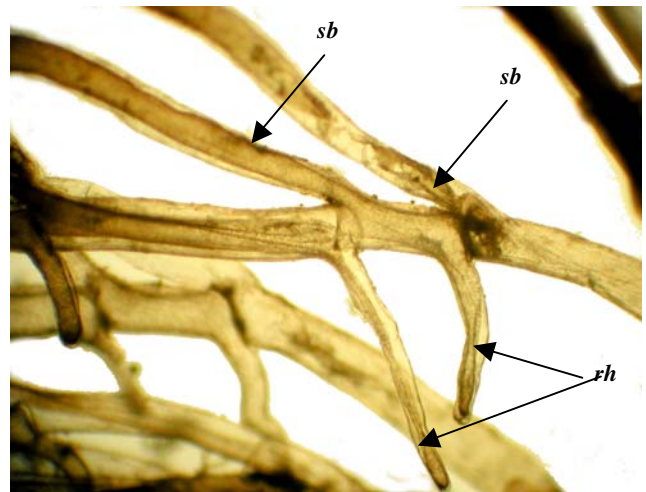
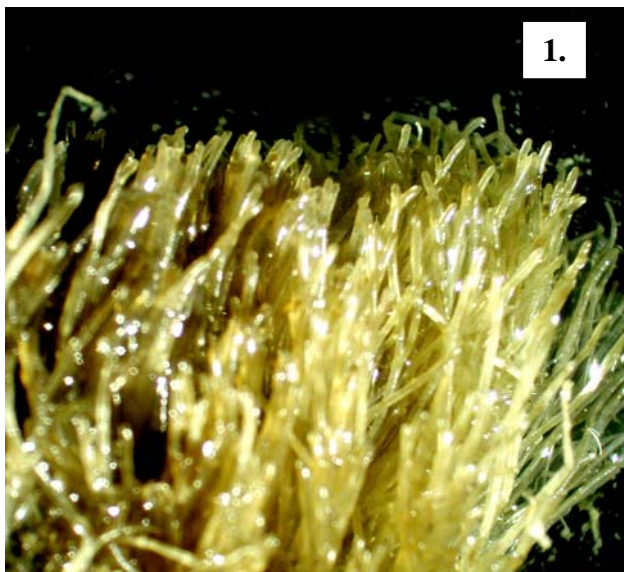
in shaded areas just above or below low tide mark on coasts of moderate wave energy, apparently in warmer waters

Similar Species

superficially like many filamentous algae (*Cladophora*, *Ulothrix*) but the connection of side branches to the main axis without a basal cell wall is unique (see image below). Separated from *Cladophoropsis magna* by presence of rhizoids at the bases of side branches, and the wider distribution.

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 183-4

Details of Anatomy



Preserved (bleached) specimens (A13612) of *Cladophoropsis herpestica*

1. edge of a cushion-shaped, compact mass of threads of a preserved specimen
2. threads with rhizoids (*rh*) on their undersides, and elongate cells
3. detail of branching, showing the side branches (*sb*) that lack cross walls at their bases, and rhizoids (*rh*) arising from the bases of axial cells



Cladoph
herpestica

Elliston, S
Lower litt.,
15/1/19

Coll. & Det R N Baldock

Cladophoropsis herpestica (Montagne) Howe, (A13612)
from Elliston, S Australia, in shaded parts of the lower intertidal

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, October 2003