

***Codium apiculatum***  
Silva Chacana & Womersley  
(not in the Benthic Flora)

50.620



**Techniques needed and plant shape**

**Classification**

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

**\*Descriptive name**

deep water velvet fork-weed

**Features**

plants yellow-green, to 300mm tall, branches cylindrical, rubbery with a velvety surface, 3-6 mm in diameter, forked *many* times tapering gradually towards bullet-nosed or sometimes pointed tips

**Special requirements**



shave off or tease out a few of the microscopic, flask-shaped outer structures (utricles) and view them under the microscope. Utricles are squat, flat with a slightly thickened wall at the top and paired threads basally containing an internal constriction (plug) a little distant from the base

**Occurrences**

W. Australia? Gulf waters and West Coast islands, S Australia

**Usual Habitat**

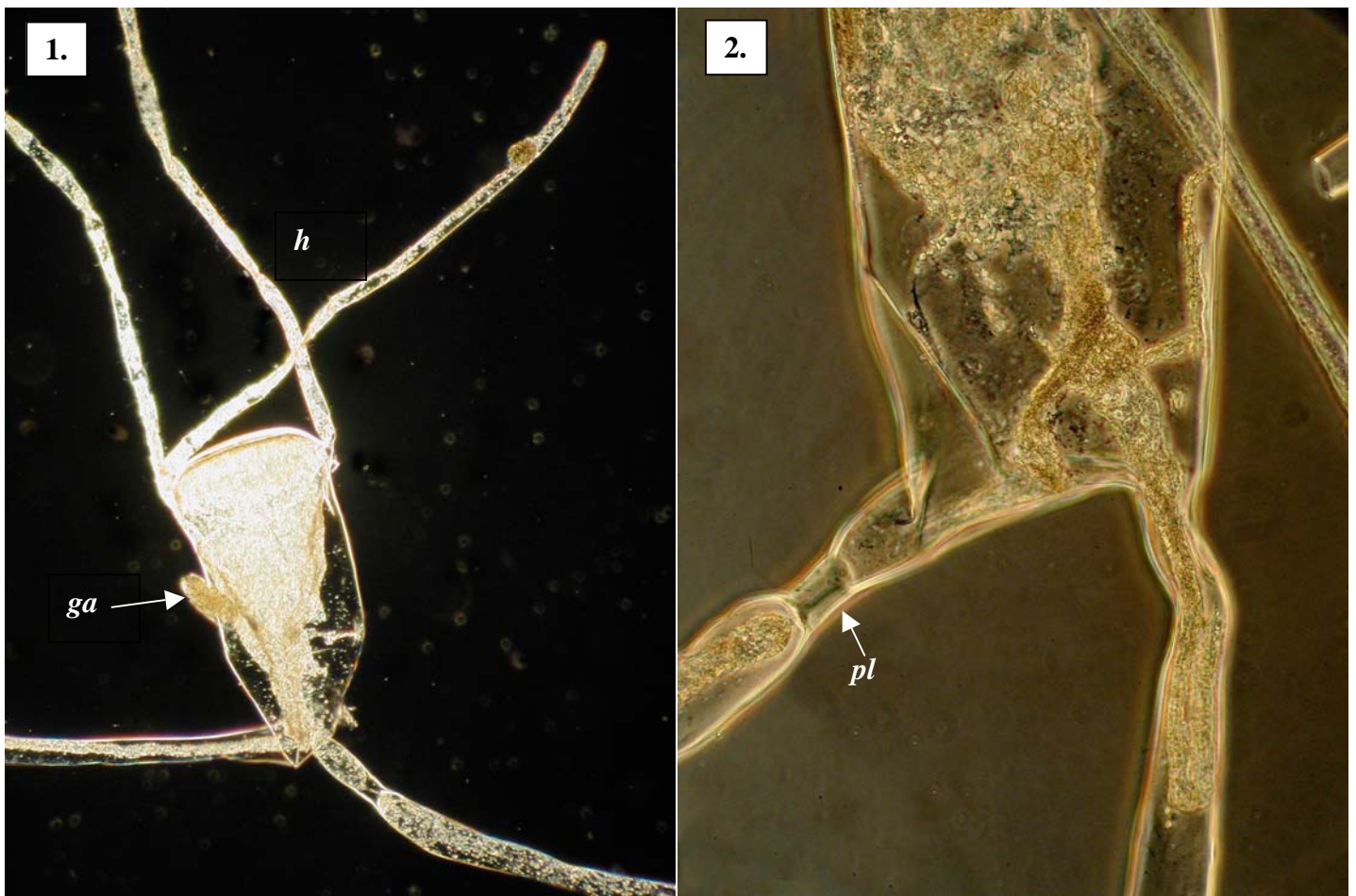
on rock at depth (to 25m)

**Similar Species**

*Codium harveyi*, which has similar utricles, but branches are much narrower in that species

**Description in the Benthic Flora** not recorded

**Details of Anatomy**



Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Codium nuytsianum* (A69496) viewed microscopically at different magnifications  
1. utricle showing slight apical wall thickening (arrowed), a reproductive organ (gametangium, *ga*) and hairs (*h*)  
2. utricle near its base showing a plug (*pl*) a short distance from the start of the basal thread

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

3.



5.



4.



- 3, 4. *Codium apiculatum* Silva, Chacana & Womersley (69496) from Althorpe I., S. Australia  
3. habit  
4. detail of the narrow tips from which the species gets its name  
5. shaving from a branch surface viewed microscopically, highlighting the squat shape of utricles and thin cell walls

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