

Techniques needed



MACRO
PLANT



tubular



Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

***Descriptive name**

narrow-forked velvet-weed

Features

plants yellow green, to 250mm tall branches rubbery, with velvety surface, cylindrical, ≈5mm in diameter, tapering towards the tips, forked many times

Variations

Special requirements



plants may be eroded to a thick base that regenerates narrower upper parts
shave off or tease out a few of the microscopic, flask-shaped outer structures (utricles) and view them under the microscope. Utricles club-shaped, 290-960µm long and 130-520µm in diameter, a unique internal projection in the rounded tips, and paired threads basally with an internal constriction (plug)

Occurrences

southern W Australia to Victoria

Usual Habitat

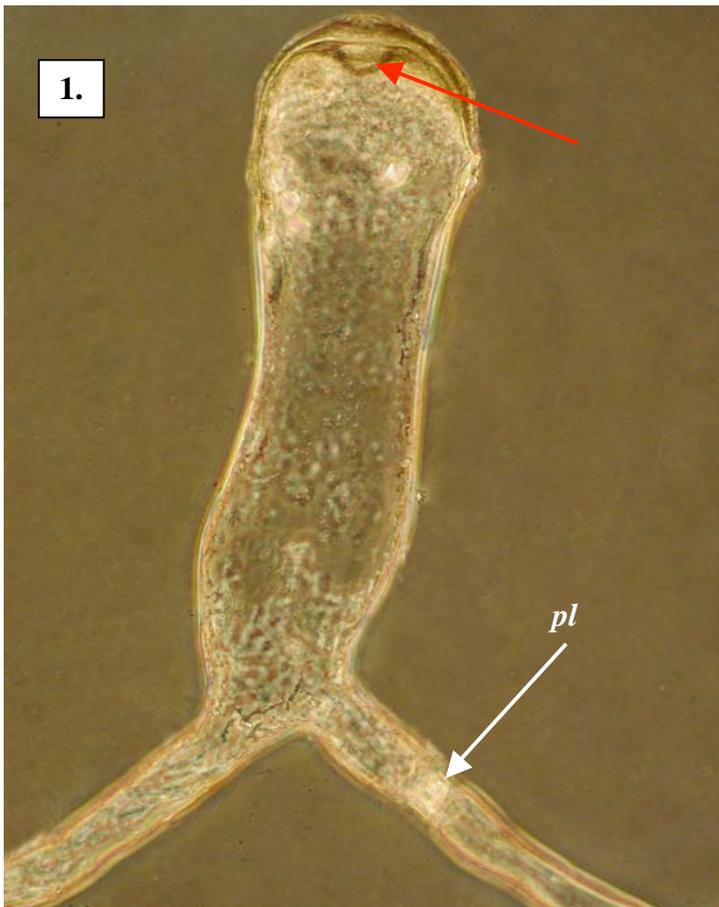
on rock below low water level to 11m deep on coasts of moderate wave energy

Similar Species

several species with forked branching, especially *Codium australicum*.
Microscopic investigation of the utricles is needed to separate the species.

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 236-239

Details of Anatomy



Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Codium muelleri* (A19874) viewed microscopically

1. single utricule showing the unique internal projection of the thickened end wall (arrowed) and basal threads with a plug (*pl*) relatively distant from the utricule base
2. narrow utricule highlighting the in-growing end wall

3.



4.



3. *Codium muelleri* Kützing, (A35176) from Robe, S. Australia with a thickened, perennial base and narrow highly-branched upper parts
4. utricles from a shaving of the plant surface, using phase contrast microscope imaging to highlight the thickened end walls of utricles (A19874)

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