

Techniques needed



MACRO
PLANT

Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

***Descriptive name**

§sea apple

Features

plants dark green (-black), **ball-shaped**, to 120mm in diameter, **tough** and rubbery, hollow when old. Outer flask shaped structures (utricles) not visible to the unaided eye

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 tightly packed, 1-3mm long and 90-125µm in diameter, club-shaped, slightly constricted near the top, end wall thick with a unique internal extension (**umbo**), paired threads basally with internal constriction (plug)

Occurrences

southern W Australia to Victoria and Tasmania

Usual Habitat

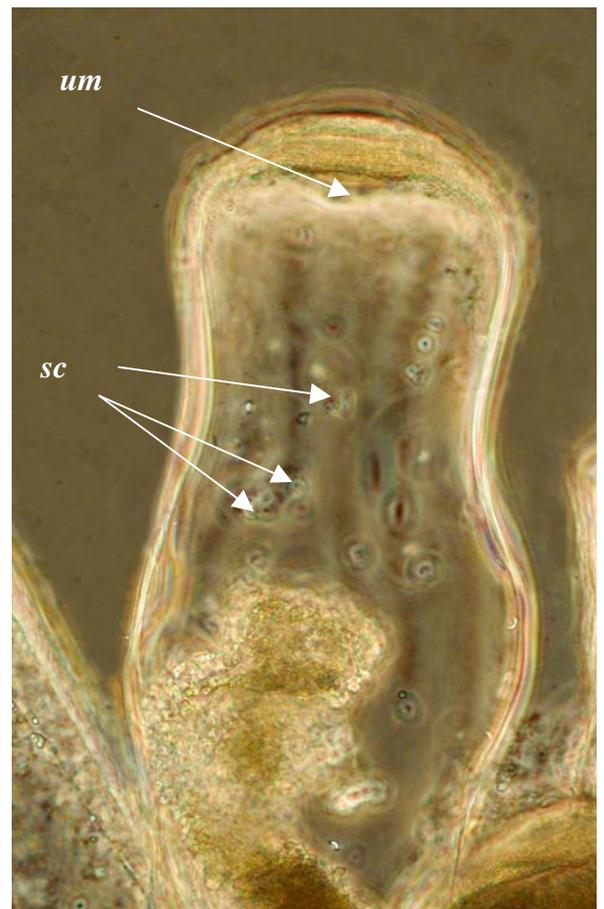
on rock at low water level in shaded sites to 20m deep on rough water coasts

Similar Species

Codium mamillosum but this is yellow green, and individual utricles can be seen with the unaided eye, also *Codium perrinae* but this species is usually lobed. Microscopic investigation of the utricles is needed to confirm the species. Superficially like the dark green colonies of blue-green bacteria, *Rivularia firma*.

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 232-233

Details of Anatomy



Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Codium pomoides* (A19380) viewed microscopically

1. utricule tips from a shaving of the plant surface highlighting the thickened end wall and slight constriction near the tip
2. utricule top showing thickened end wall with internal extension (umbo, *um*) and surface wall scars (*sc*), hairs absent

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used

§ name used in Edgar, G. *Australian Marine Life, 2nd Ed.* (2008)

“Algae Revealed” R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, July 2003



Codium pomoides J. Agardh, (A35180) from Carpenter Rocks, S. Australia

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