

Enteromorpha (Ulva) flexuosa
(Wulfen ex Roth) J Agardh

50.470

Techniques needed



Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Ulvales; Family: Ulvaceae

*Descriptive name

thin green sausage weed

Features



plants soft, green, fading to a browner colour, 30-60mm tall branching near the **base**, branches hollow, about 8mm broad

Variations

Special requirements



! Diagnosis can be difficult

view the branches under the microscope to find

1. branches, **hollow**, cells in **lines** running along the most of length of the branch and often in rows across branches
2. cells relatively large (14-18µm long), **angular**, square or rectangular, chloroplasts each with 2-3 bright bodies (pyrenoids)

Occurrences



from the Adriatic Sea. In Australia found only at St Kilda, S Australia, possibly more widespread but not recognised

Usual Habitat

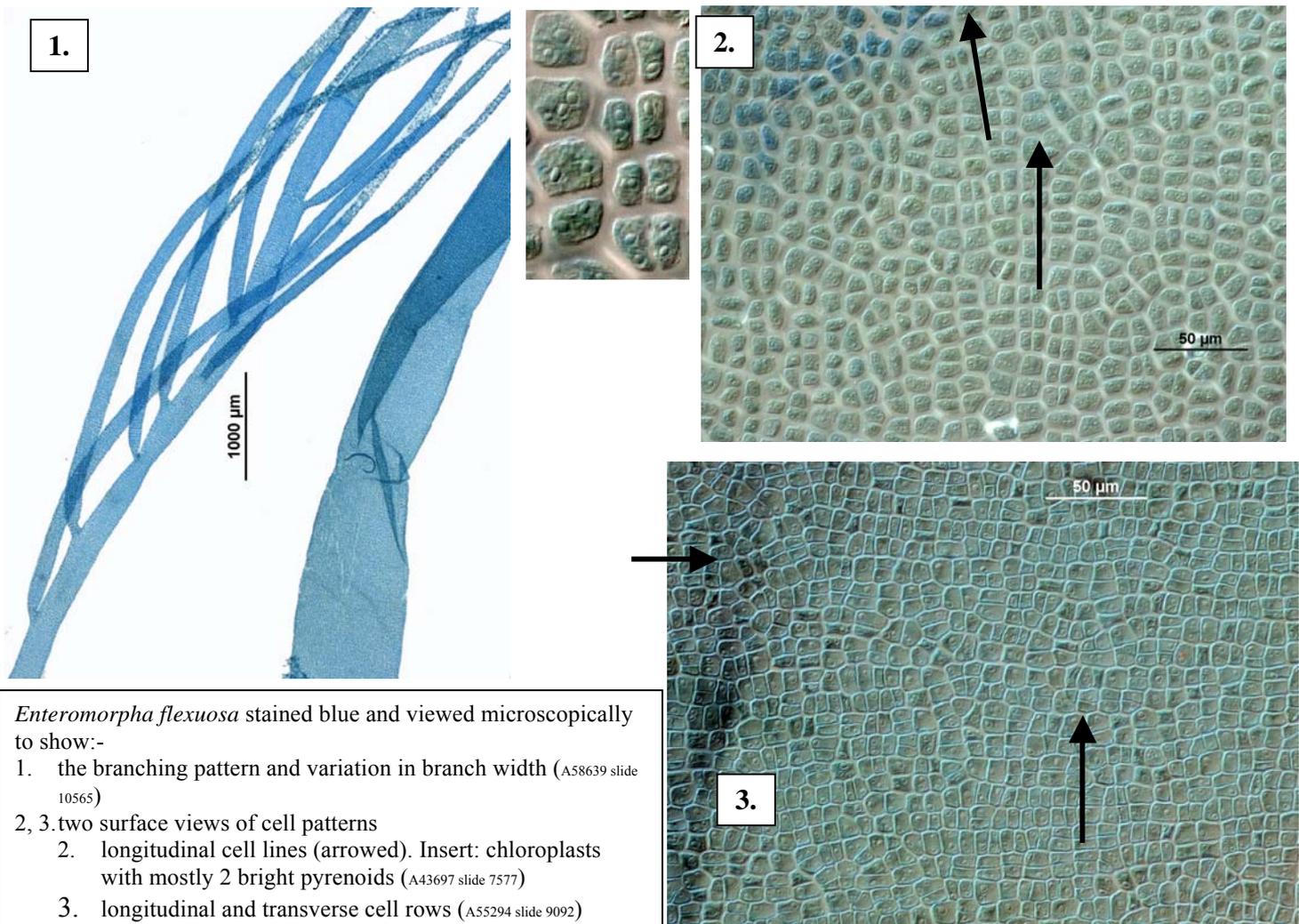
on tape grass, *Posidonia australis*.

Similar Species

superficially like *Enteromorpha prolifera* but cells are smaller in that species

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 153, 157, 160

Details of Anatomy



Enteromorpha flexuosa stained blue and viewed microscopically to show:-

1. the branching pattern and variation in branch width (A58639 slide 10565)
- 2, 3. two surface views of cell patterns
 2. longitudinal cell lines (arrowed). Insert: chloroplasts with mostly 2 bright pyrenoids (A43697 slide 7577)
 3. longitudinal and transverse cell rows (A55294 slide 9092)



Specimens of *Enteromorpha (Ulva) flexuosa* (Wulfen *ex* Roth) J Agardh at different magnifications
 4. on tape grass, *Posidonia australis*, 1m deep from St Kilda, S Australia (A43697)
 5, 6. (A55294b)

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
 "Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, October 2003; modified February 2009