

Techniques needed and plant shape



Classification

Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Compsopogonales;
Family: Erythrotrichiaceae

***Descriptive name**

micro bladed tufts

Features



plants red, of thread-like blades, about 5mm long emerging from tiny discs about 0.5mm across growing on seagrass blades or brown and green algae

Special requirements



tease out plants from the host and view microscopically to find:

- small discs 1-cell thick with radiating cell patterns, emergent narrow blades with a single line of cells when young (uniseriate), expanding to several cells lines (multiseriate) in mature blades, cells in distinct rows
- spherical monosporangia cut off from cells of the blades by a **curved** wall

Occurrences

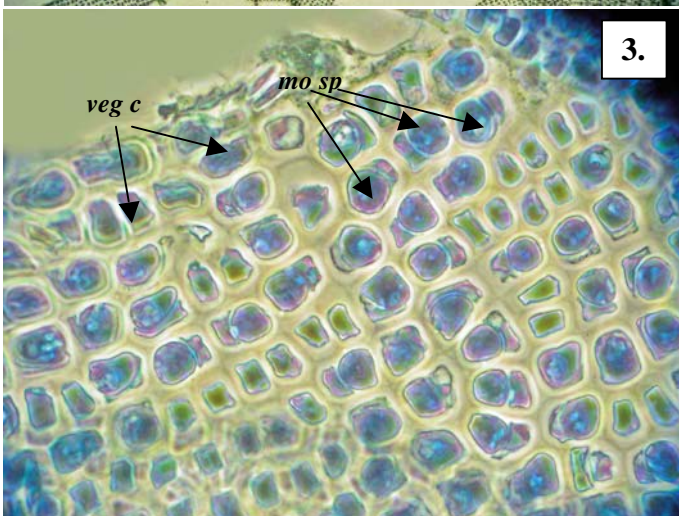
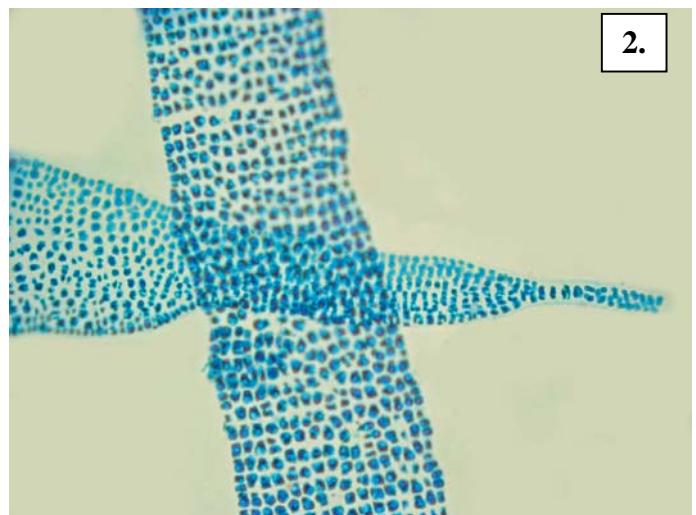
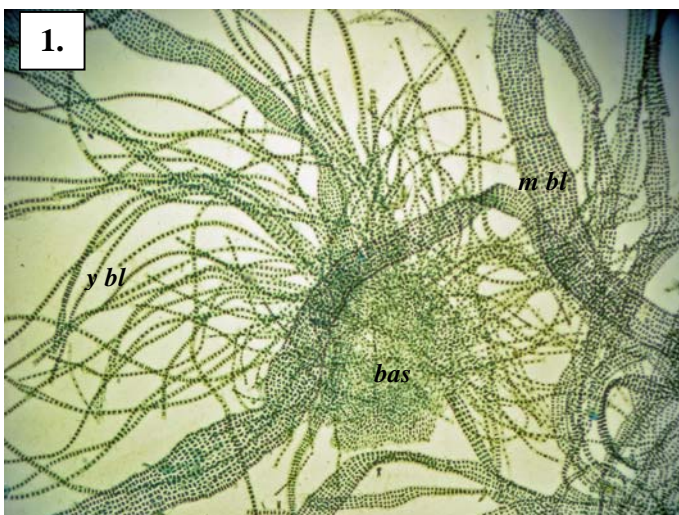
Usual Habitat

Similar Species

originally from Warrnambool, Victoria; also SE Australia and Tasmania on *Zostera*, *Myriodesma harveyana* and *Codium fragile*
separated from other *Erythrotrichia* spp because of the basal disc and regular rows of cells. Superficially similar to *Bangia*, but only 1-cell thick

Description in the Benthic Flora Part IIIA, pages28-30

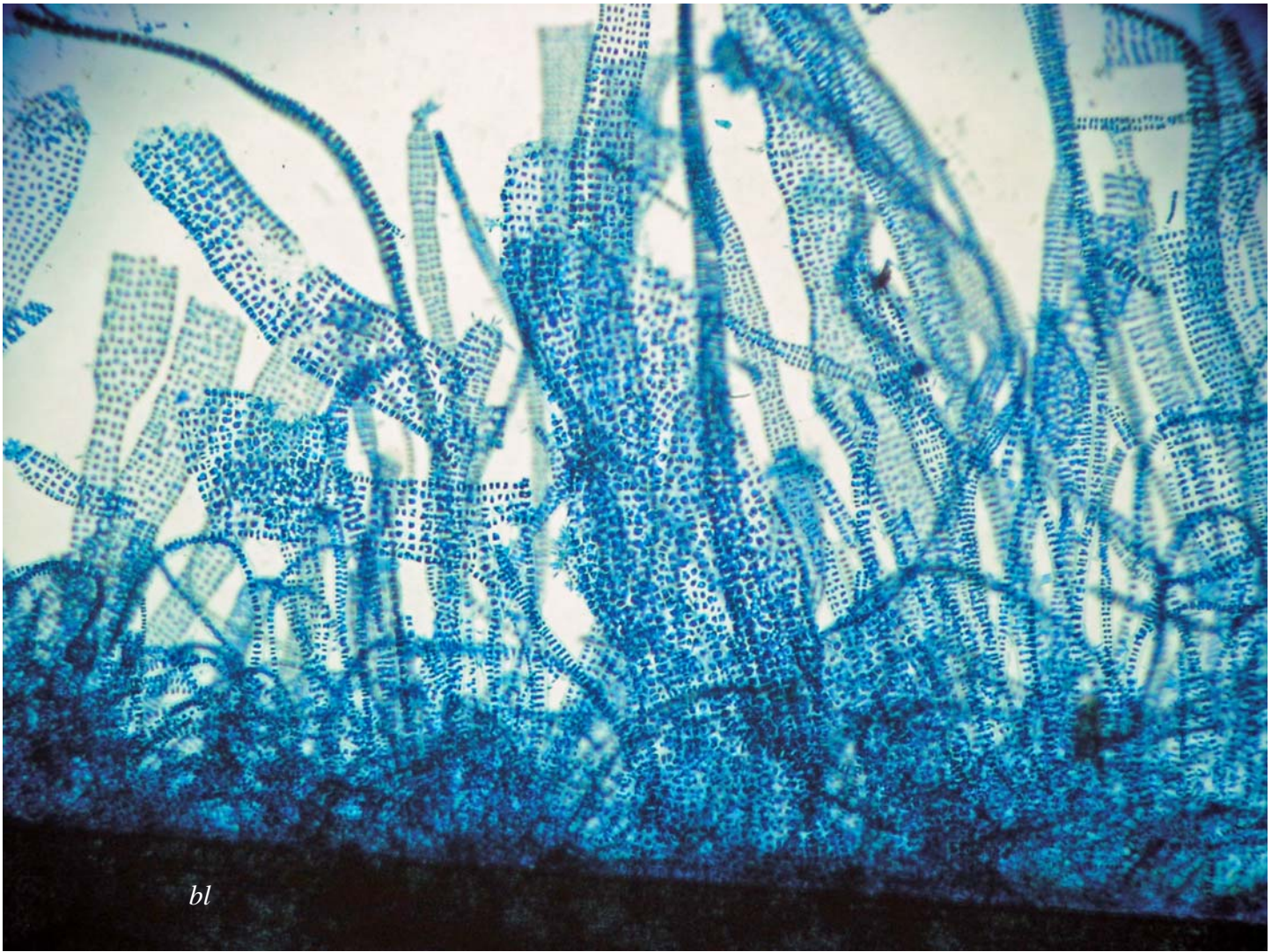
Details of Anatomy



Erythrotrichia ligulata scraped from its host, stained blue and viewed microscopically at different magnifications

1. basal disc (*bas*) and emergent young blades (*y bl*) with a single line of cells and mature blades (*m bl*) with several cell lines in distinct rows (A39356 slide 3904)
2. regular cell alignment in a mature blade (A58647 slide 10576)
3. surface view of monosporangia (*mo sp*) cut off from the box-shaped vegetative cells (*veg c*) with curved walls (A39356 slide 3904)

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, January 2007



4. *Erythrotrichia ligulata* on a host *Heterozostera* blade (*bl*), stained blue and viewed microscopically from the side to show the mass of emergent fronds (A58647 slide 10576)