

**Techniques needed and plant shape**



**Classification**

Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Gigartinales; Family: Peyssonneliaceae  
red rock- and shell-crust

**\*Descriptive name**

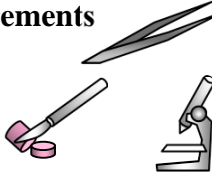
**Features**

plants dark red, 10-30mm across, on rock and shells, forming thin, encrusting, circular or lobed patches **hard to remove**, amongst paler, bleached coralline algal crusts and sponges  
Brazil; N Carolina USA. In Australia, from the Head of the Great Australian Bight to Louth Bay S Australia, but probably more widespread and overlooked  
on rock and mollusc shells in shallow water or shaded intertidal pools

**Occurrences**

**Usual Habitat**

**Special requirements**



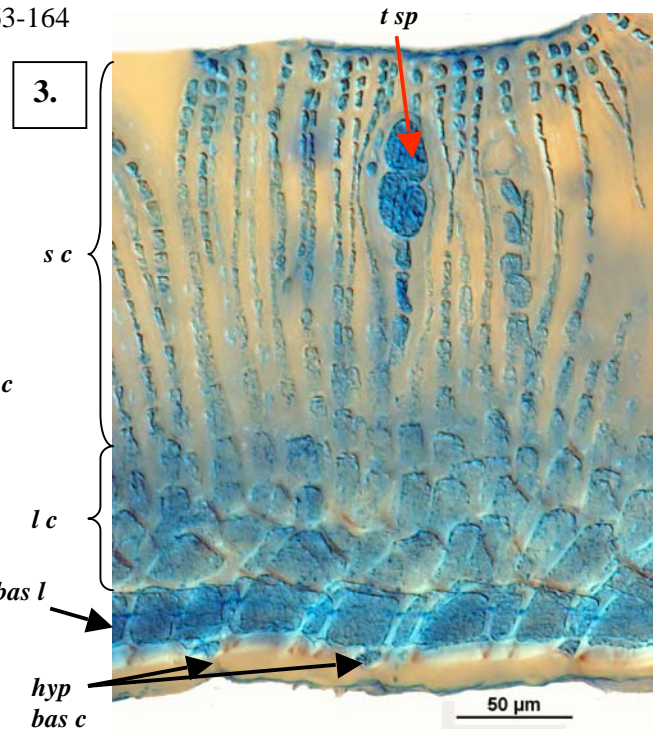
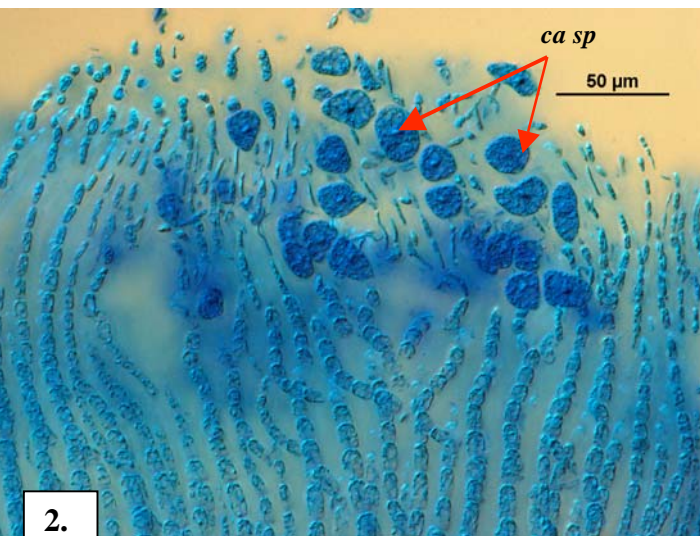
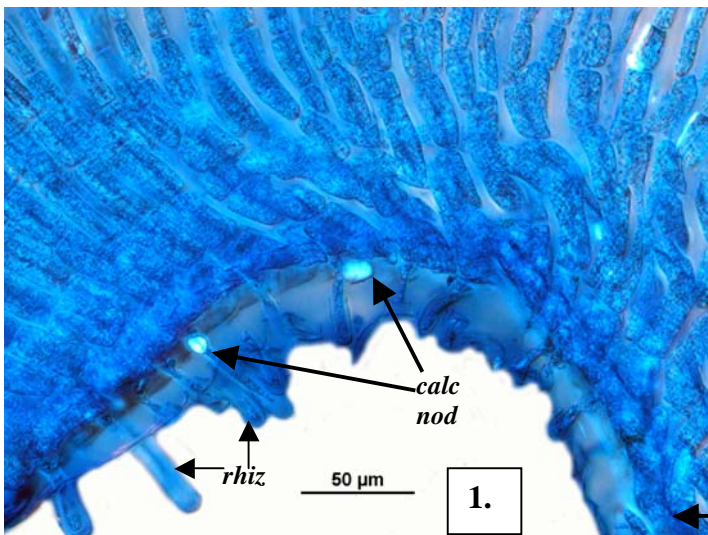
1. scrape off a piece of crust and view underside cells microscopically to find branching, spreading, **fan-shaped** pattern of threads (flabelloids) in the basal layer, characteristic of this species
2. a section through an encrusting scale shows a basal layer that forms fan-shaped patterns in surface view **occasionally** giving rise below to **small cells within the blade sheath** (hypobasal layer) producing single-celled rhizoids and, above, threads of 1-4 **large**, branching, oblong cells arising at 60-80°, narrowing to fine, unbranched threads of **11-13 small cells**
3. shallow patches (nemathecia) of female structures with microscopic short chains of carposporangia amongst fine threads occur on the upper surface of plants
4. tetrasporangia amongst fine threads divided in a cross-shaped (cruciate) pattern occur on the upper surface of plants

**Similar Species**

*Peyssonnelia splendens*, but the internal thread anatomy is different in this species

**Description in the Benthic Flora** Part IIIA, pages 152, 163-164

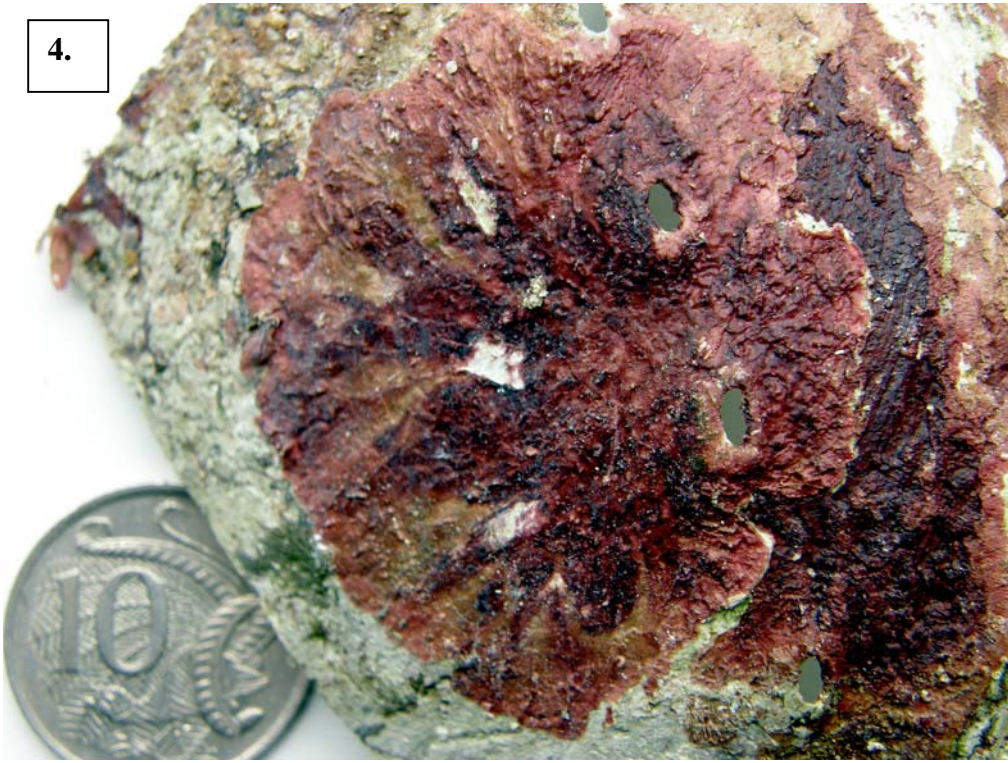
**Details of Anatomy**



Sections of *Peyssonnelia boudouresquei* stained blue and viewed microscopically to show:

1. basal layer (*bas l*) giving rise to rhizoids *rh* and above, threads (assurgent filaments) branching in the first 1-4 large cells (*lc*), ending in slender, unbranched threads of 11-13 smaller cells (*sc*) and several calcite nodules (*calc nod*) (A19639 slide 12130)
2. a part of a female patch (nemathecium) with chains of carposporangia (*ca sp*) at the ends of slender threads (A19608 slide 12135)
3. tetrasporangia (*t sp*) amongst slender threads and several inconspicuous basal cells of rhizoids (hypobasal cells, *hyp bas c*) lying within the blade

4.



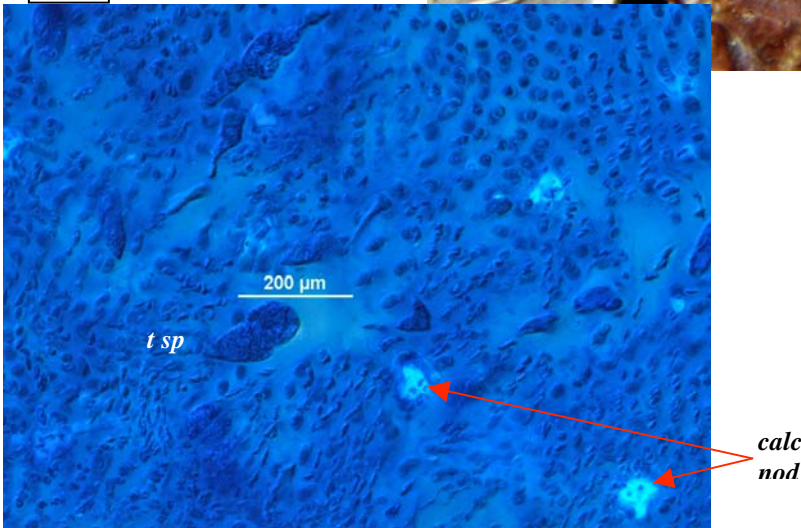
*Peyssonnelia boudouresquei* Yoneshigue from S Australia:

- 4.(A61653) at 10m deep, on green lip abalone *Haliotis laevigata* shell, Topgallant I.
- 5. (A19321) in a shaded rock pool, Head of the Great Australian Bight
- 6. upper surface view of cells, tetrasporangia (*t sp*) and calcite nodules (*calc nod*) stained blue and viewed microscopically (A15075 slide 12123)

5.



6.



Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used.  
"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium January 2010