

**Techniques needed, and shape**



**Classification**

Phylum: Rhodophyta; Class: Bangiophyceae; Order: Porphyridiales;  
Family: Porphyridiaceae

**\*Descriptive name**

blood-spot

**Features**



plants form tiny gelatinous red spots about 1mm across grow on other algae

**Occurrences**

known in southern Australia from West Island, probably more widespread but overlooked because of its size

**Special requirements**



1. dissect the gelatinous spots under high power microscopy to view the individual cells that make up the colony
2. each cell has a blood-red plastid

**Usual Habitat**

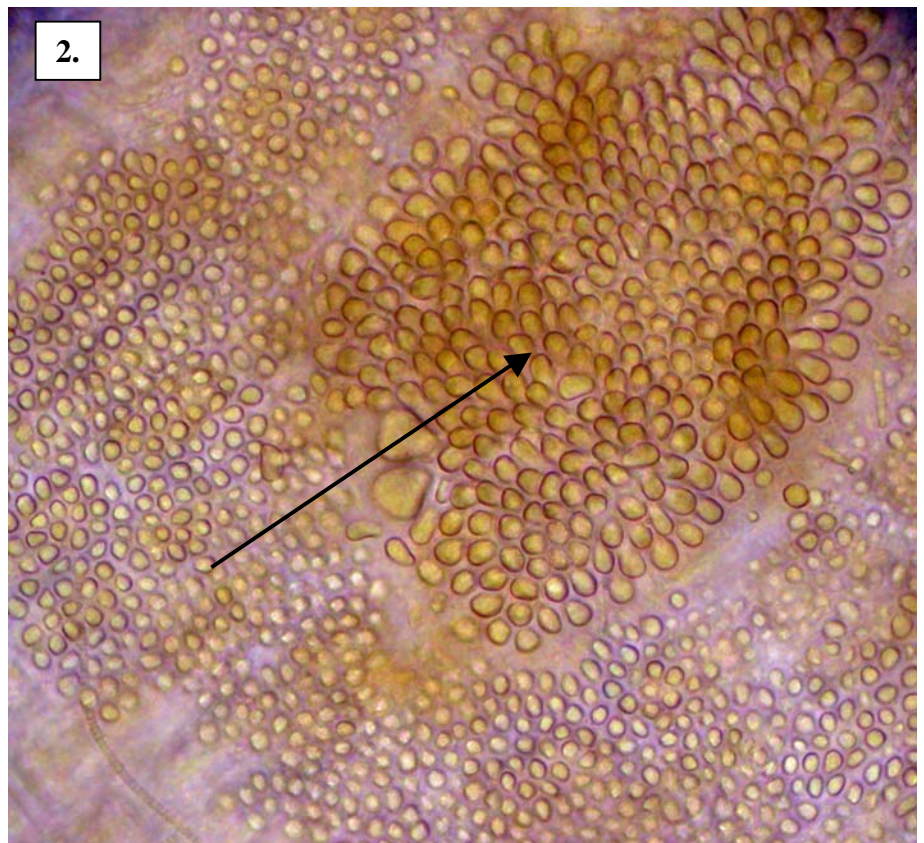
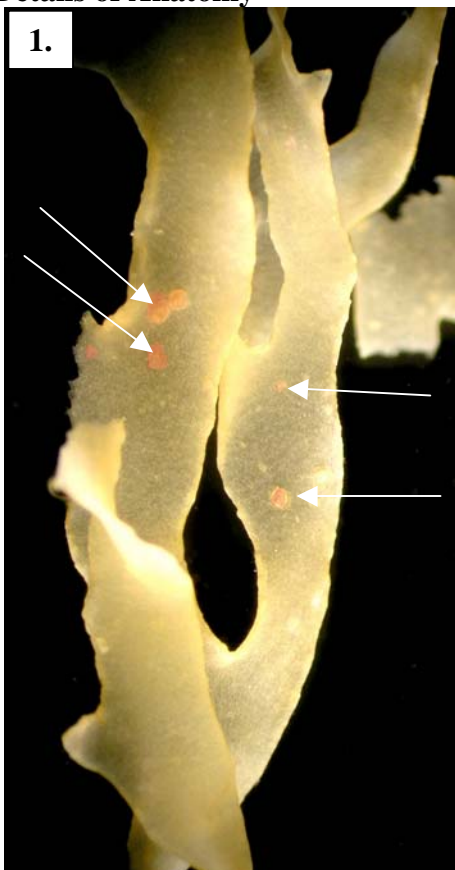
freshwater, but apparently also on *Dictyota fenestrata* in 3-4m of seawater

**Similar Species**

other species of *Porphyridium* are distinguished by their plastid colour

**Description in the Benthic Flora** Part IIIA, pages 21-23

**Details of Anatomy**



Microscope views of preserved (bleached) specimens of *Porphyridium purpureum* A59695 on *Dictyota fenestrata*

1. several colonies (arrowed) on the fronds of the bleached brown algal host
2. cell detail of a colony (arrowed), surface view

3. *Porphyridium purpureum* A59695 (arrowed), about 1mm across, on the surface of *Dictyota fenestrata* fronds

