

***Rhipiliopsis peltata***  
(J. Agardh) Gepp & Gepp

50.640

**Techniques needed, and shape**



MACRO  
PLANT



flat-  
bladed

**Classification**

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Caulerpales;  
Family: Udoteaceae

**\*Descriptive name**

stalked felt-plant; §Neptune's mat

**Features**

plants grey-green to green, 20-40mm tall, of a *felty*, flat blade on a *short* stalk

**Variations**

blades may have faint growth zones across the blade

**Special requirements**



1. view a torn and teased-out portion of the blade to see the entwined threads with forked (dichotomous) branching that are *pinched* (constricted) close to the fork
2. filaments are *slender*, 18-20µm across and occasionally have *side connections*

**Occurrences**

S W. Australia to Victoria

**Usual Habitat**

common on rock in shaded shallow water on rough coasts, to 31m deep

**Similar Species**

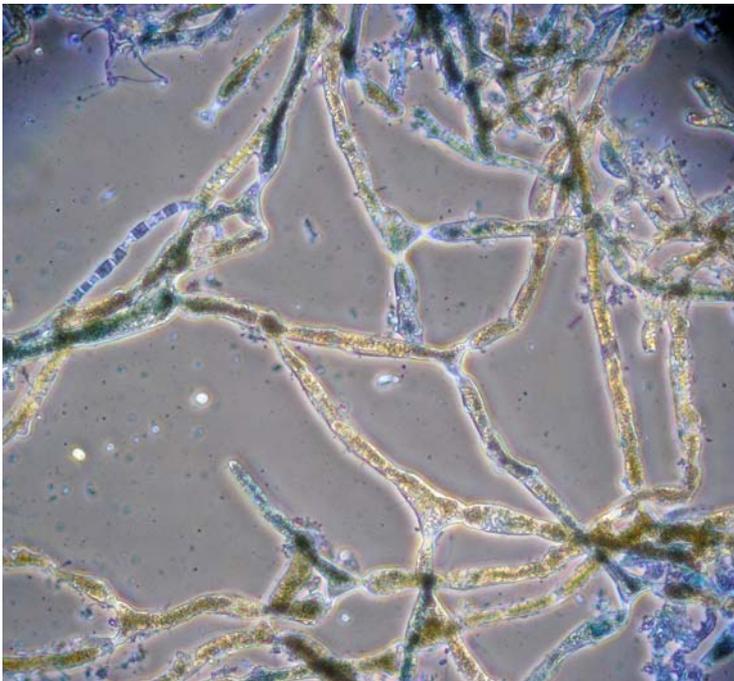
*Rhipiliopsis robusta*, but that species is larger, and the microscopic filaments of which it is composed are 150-200µm across. Also similar to *Avranvillea* but that is larger (80-200mm tall) and its microscopic filaments *do not have side connections*.

**Description in the Benthic Flora** Part I, page 248-251, 252

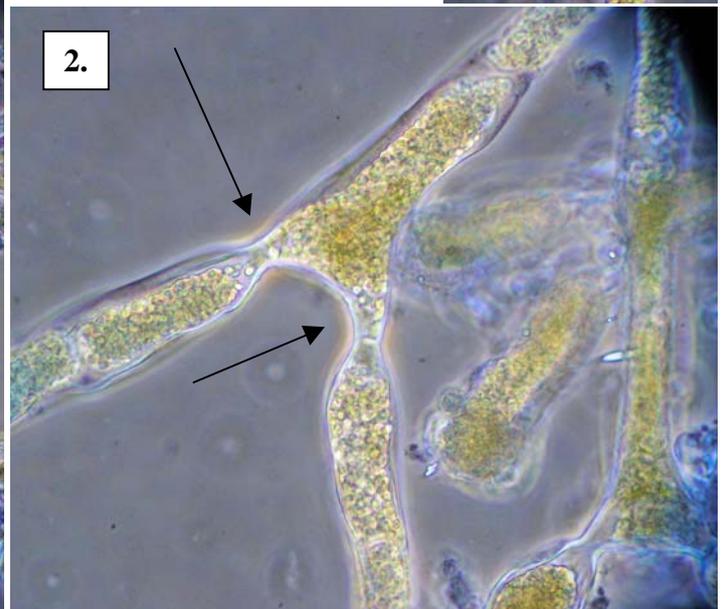
3.

**Details of Anatomy**

1.



2.



teased threads from preserved (bleached) blades of *Rhipiliopsis peltata* (slide 20536) viewed with phase contrast microscopy

1. mass of forked, tangled threads making up the felty blade of the plant
2. detail of threads showing the pinched regions (arrowed) near forks
3. detail of the ends of filaments showing the cigar-shaped tips that make up the plant surface

\* 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, June 2005

*Rhipiliopsis peltata* (J. Agardh) Gepp & Gepp (A37817) from Nora Creina, S. Australia, showing concentric zones on the blade and the short stalk (*st*)



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