

SOUTHERN AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF RHIZOCLONIUM AT A GLANCE

Both *Rhizoclonium* and *Chaetomorpha* form tangled mats of unbranched threads with net-like chloroplasts. *Rhizoclonium* threads are finer (10-45µm wide compared to *Chaetomorpha* where threads are > 60µm wide)

Correct identification of species requires microscope examination of plants to determine:

1. **sizes** of cells and cell **proportions** (length to breadth or L/B ratio)
2. the position of **rhizoids**

I. Elongate cells usually without rhizoids



Rh. implexum
Cell L/B = 2-6; Cells 16-22µm wide

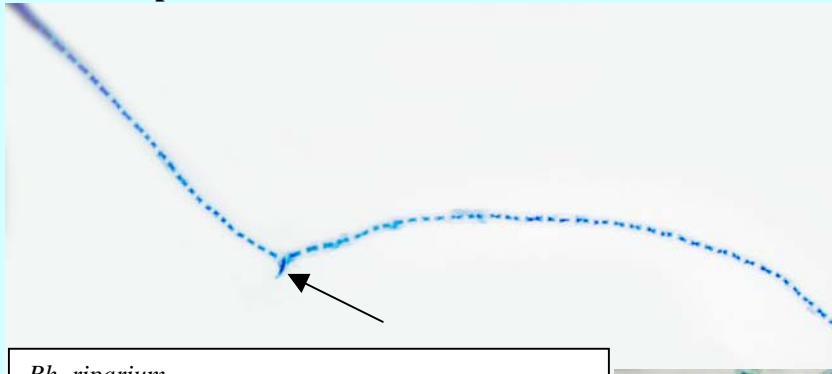
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Rh. tortuosum; Cell L/B = 2-3;
Cells 25-45µm wide

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II. Box-shaped cells often with rhizoids



Rh. riparium
Threads with **irregularly**-placed rhizoids (one arrowed)
Cell L/B = 1-1.5 (image RHS top); Cells 16-22µm wide

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Rh. curvatum
Threads with **regularly**-placed rhizoids (2 arrowed)
Cell L/B = 1-1.5
Cells 24-32µm wide

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