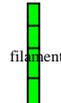


**Techniques needed and plant shape**



MICRO  
PLANT



**Classification**

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Cladophorales; Family: Cladophoraceae

**\*Descriptive name**

moss ball

**Features**

1. plants dark green, shape variable:
  - free-floating hollow balls to 120mm in diameter
  - a barely visible “scum” on mud surfaces
  - densely-branched mats to 60mm across
2. this is a plant of calmer waters, inlets and estuaries very variable shape (see above)

**Variations**

**Special requirements**



1. view the irregularly shaped cells microscopically
2. find the multicellular rhizoids, and fine hairs often present

**Occurrences**

**Usual Habitat**

Spencer Gulf, SA to NSW

on hard surfaces such as jetty piles and shore boulders or on mud surfaces in calm estuaries or floating in calm water

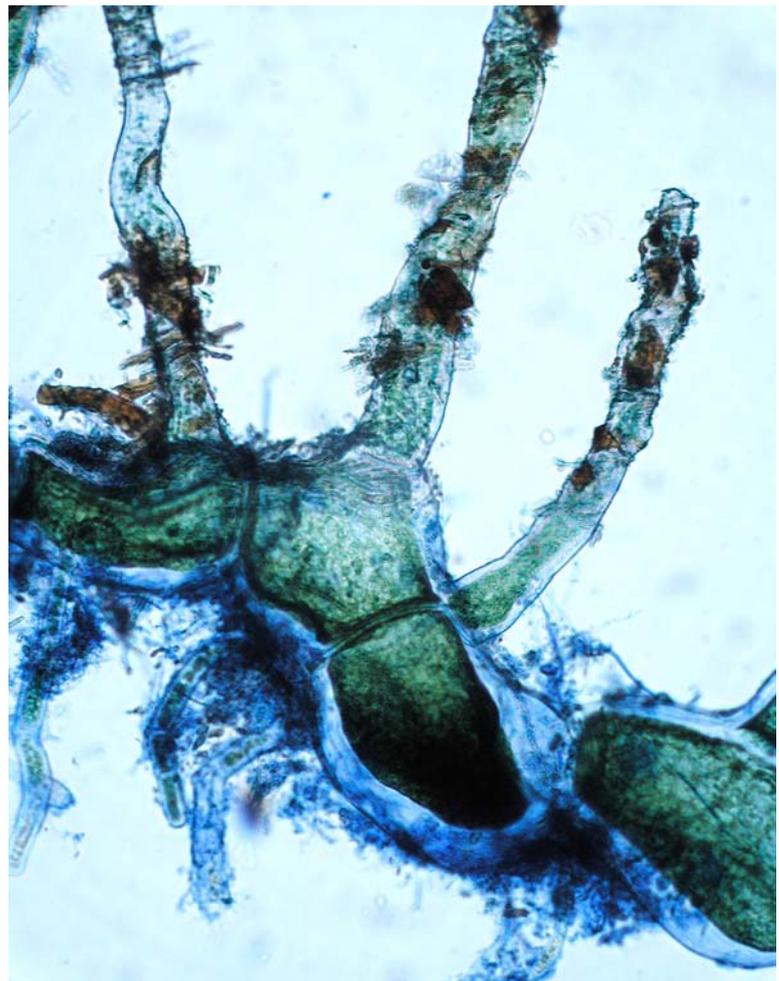
**Similar Species**

*Cladophora aegagropiloidea* consists of floating balls, but is yellow green, and cells are cylindrical

**Description in the Benthic Flora** Part I, pages 213-215

**Details of Anatomy**

*Wittrockiella salina* stained blue and viewed microscopically showing irregularly shaped cells of horizontal filaments, narrow **multicellular** rhizoids and stouter upright filaments. No fine hairs are present in this specimen. (slide 6681)





*Wittrockiella salina* Chapman, (A53827), from Lake Bunga, NE of Lakes Entrance, Victoria, 1982