

KEYS TO SOME COMMON BENTHIC (ATTACHED) MARINE ALGAE OF SOUTH EASTERN AUSTRALIA

II. COMMON BLUE-GREEN ALGAL/BACTERIAL COLONIES

- 1a. plants occur in colonies about 1-2cm across. Colonies are shiny, dark green, gelatinous, round or irregular in shape, easily mistaken for green alga and found in the intertidal

..... *Rivularia* species
Rivularia atra forms irregular shaped, hollow, soft colonies in sheltered conditions, for example, on the snorkels (pneumatophores) of mangroves (see Edgar 2008, p.13). *R. polyotis* (Fig. 1) is a puffy, yellow-green colony that grows on sea grasses in shallow, calm waters. *R. australis (firma)* (Fig. 2) forms shiny, hemispherical, or lozenge-shaped, tough colonies on rocks of high wave action.

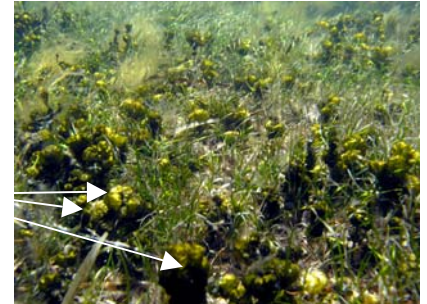


Fig. 1: two views of *Rivularia polyotis* on seagrass, Encounter Bay, SA



- 1b. plants occur in black, filmy patches sometimes metres across on rock just above high tide (supra-tidal), slippery when wet. Can be mistaken for lichens, but lichens are dry and crusty, and roughly circular
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..... *Calothrix* and *Entophysalis*

(The small grey snail *Nodolittorina* grazes these films. *Calothrix fasciculata* commonly blackens the rock on rough coasts above the limit of their grazing. In some localities, *Entophysalis deusta* replaces *Calothrix*, and the edges of the black patches on the rock end abruptly where the snails graze. See Womersley 1984, p.45.)

Fig. 2: *Rivularia australis (firma)* on granite at Victor Harbor, SA

