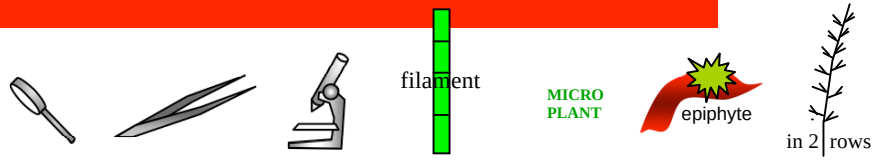
Antithamnion diminuatum
E M Wollaston

A SPECIES WITH FEW RECORDS

45.800.24

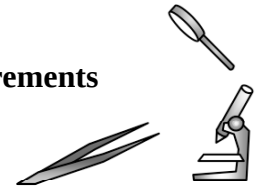
Techniques needed, and plant shape



Classification Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Ceramiales;
Family: Ceramiaceae; Tribe: Antithamnieae

***Descriptive name** tiny red threads

Features plants tiny, of naked (ecorticate) threads creeping over the surface of coralline hosts and producing upright branches about 4mm tall



Special requirements

1. tease out threads from the host plant and view microscopically to find basal cells thick-walled cell, each with ***opposite pairs*** of small branches (whorl branchlets), ***alternate*** towards plant tips and bright glands lying across the ***2-3 cells*** of short branchlets
2. view fertilised female structures of ***single*** bunches of cells (***gonimolobes***) with ***no*** involucre (envelope of threads)

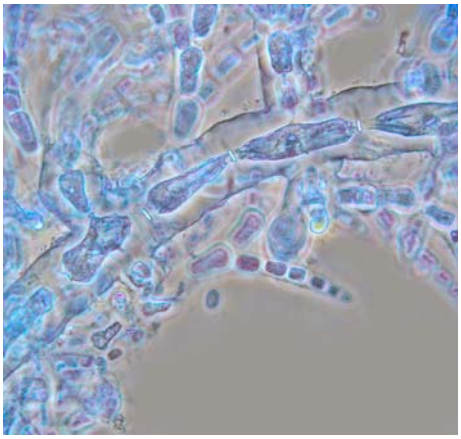
Occurrences Middle River, Kangaroo I., S Australia, Shark Bay W Australia, Possibly S Africa

Usual Habitat on the articulated *Corallina officinalis* in the mid-intertidal in S Australia

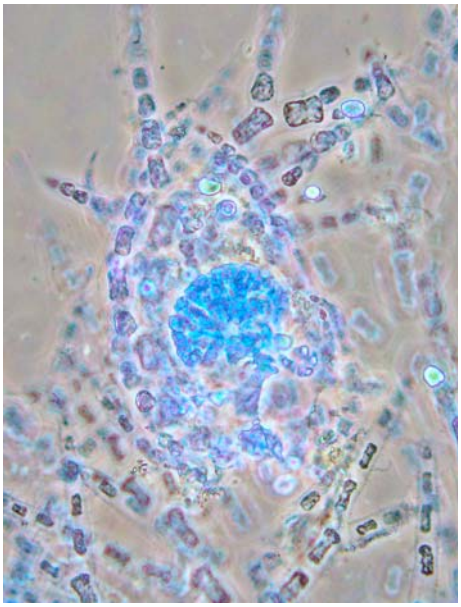
Similar Species *Antithamnion deliculatum* but the opposite pairs of whorl branchlets are longer (about 1mm), and generally ***unbranched***.

Description in the Benthic Flora Part IIIC, pages112, 113

Details of Anatomy



2.



3.

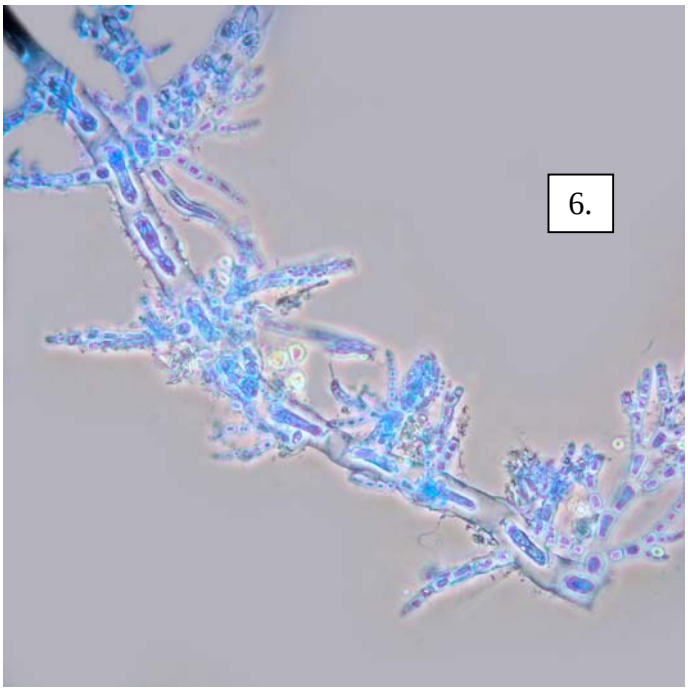
Antithamnion diminuatum stained blue and viewed microscopically

1. opposite pairs of small, forked branches (whorl branchlets) crowded at plant tips (A13031 slide 8590)
2. thick sheaths on lower main branches with short side branches (A13031 slide 16419)
3. gonimolobe (naked bunch of cells produced after fertilization) envelope (involucre) of threads ***absent*** (A13031 slide 16419)

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, February 2007

4. *Antithamnion diminuatum* E M Wollaston, A13031

5.



6.

5, 6. *Antithamnion diminuatum* stained blue and viewed microscopically at different magnifications

5. small side branch bearing a gland, characteristic of the genus *Antithamnion* (A54700 slide 8294)

6. prostrate filament with short erect side branches (A13031 slide 8590)

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"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, February 2007