Ceramium wilsonii Womersley

A SPECIES WITH FEW RECORDS

45.800.84

Techniques needed and plant shape

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

***Descriptive name** red fern

Features plants small, about 20mm tall, red; branches alternate, spreading, flat and faintly banded

Special requirements view microscopically to find

- upright threads (axes) of box-shaped cells ***abruptly*** coming to a point at branch tips, ***naked*** except for clearly separated rings of small (corticating) cells where the axial cells join together (the nodes), producing smaller cells both ***upwards*** (acropetally) and ***downwards*** (basipetally); some cells appearing glandular
- tetrasporangia in the ***outer*** parts of rings (corticating cells), naked, with ***no wrapping*** (involucre)

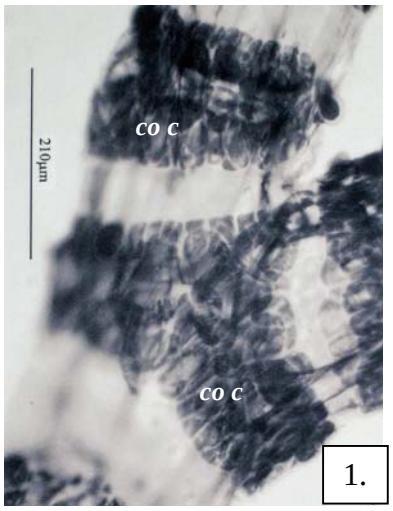
Occurrences known only from Port Phillip Heads and Western Port, Victoria

Usual Habitat probably epiphytic, but collected only in 1886, 1889

Similar Species superficially like *Ceramium lenticulare* in the flat-branching pattern, but in that species axial cells are spherical; only narrow, lens-shaped gaps occur between corticating rings; tetrasporangia are immersed or wrapped in an involucre

Description in the Benthic Flora not listed. See Womersley, H B S (2004) Additions to the marine algal flora of southern Australia. *Trans Roy. Soc. S Aust.* **128** (2), 209-211 from which the black & white images below are taken

Details of Anatomy



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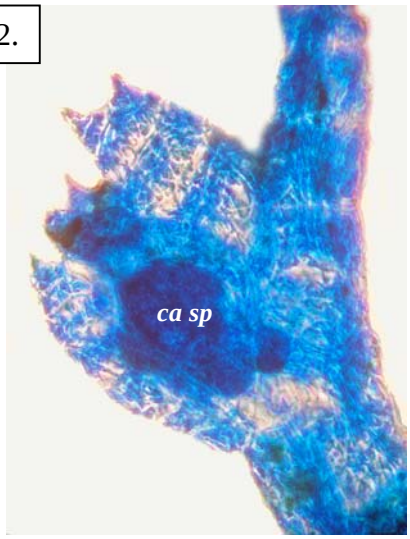

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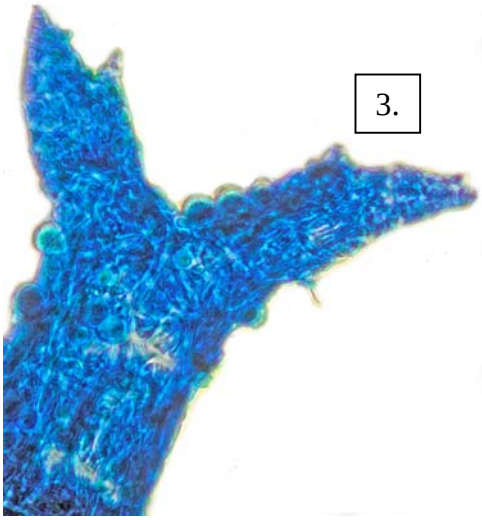

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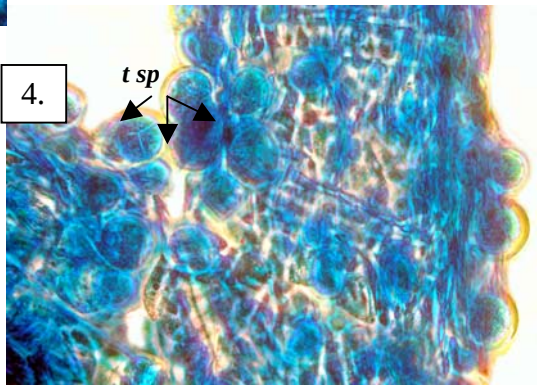

Ceramium wilsonii slides stained blue and viewed microscopically.

1. rings of corticating cells (*co c*) (MEL 454660 slide 20397)
2. position of the mass of carposporangia (*ca sp*) in the angles between several short branches (A70002 slide 20398)
3. abrupt ends to branches (A70001 slide 20397)
4. exposed tetrasporangia (*t sp*) on 2 adjacent branches (A70001 slide 20397)

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

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