Cladophoropsis magna Womersley

A SPECIES WITH FEW RECORDS

50.530

Techniques needed and plant shape

MICRO PLANT

mat plant

filament

Classification Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Cladophorales; Family: Cladophoraceae

***Descriptive name** false Cladophora

Features plants lie as large masses of tangled, ***unattached*** threads (filaments)

Special requirements

view the threads microscopically to find

1. cells may be very long
2. side branches occur as ***outgrowths of the main axis***, diagnostic of the genus
3. absence of rhizoids

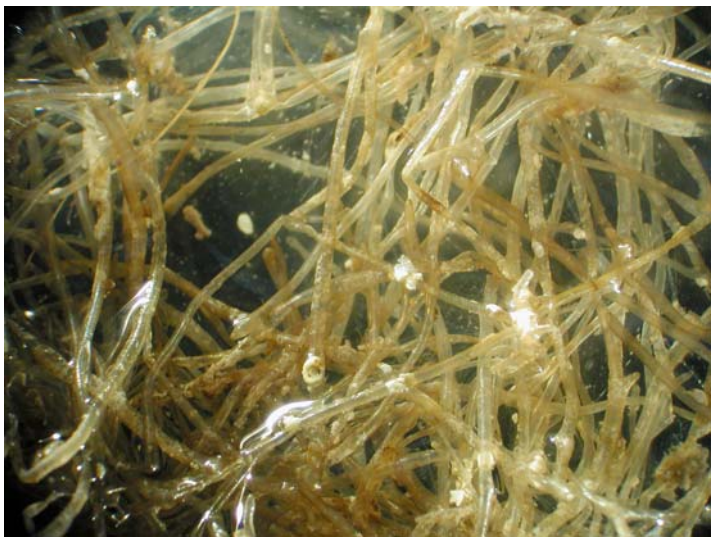
Occurrences known only from the West Coast of S. Australia

Usual Habitat known from rafts of drift material only from Smoky and Denial Bays, West Coast, S. Australia

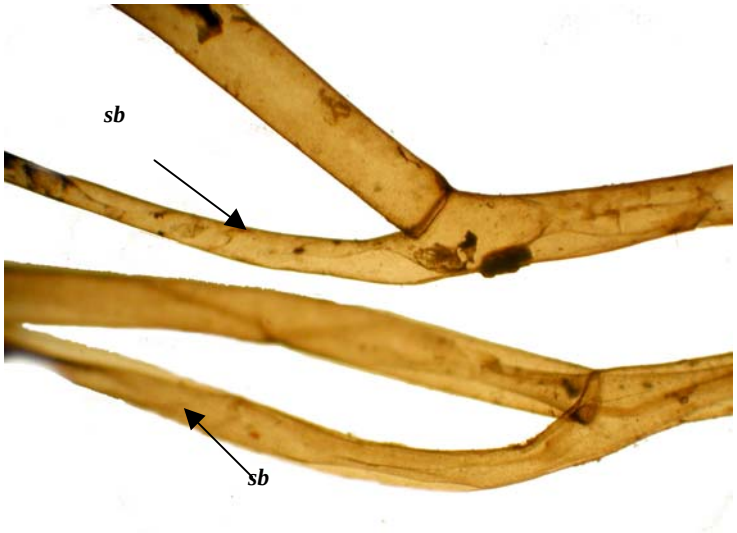
Similar Species superficially like many filamentous algae (*Cladophora*, *Ulothrix*) but the connection of side branches to the main axis without a basal cell wall is unique (see image below). Separated from *Cladophoropsis herpestica* by ***lack*** of rhizoids at the bases of side branches.

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 182, 184-5

Details of Anatomy



Tangled threads of a preserved specimen of *Cladophoropsis magna*, (A58396). . Rafts of threads may be 500mm across



Detail of branching of a preserved (bleached) specimen of *Cladophoropsis magna*, (A58396), showing

- lack of cross walls at the bases of side branches (*sb*) that places this in the genus *Cladophoropsis*
- lack of rhizoids at the base of side branches that separates this species from *Cladophoropsis herpestica*

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used

a piece of a drift raft of plants of *Cladophoropsis magna* Womersley, (A13615) from Smoky Bay, S Australia

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"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, October 2003