Codium apiculatum
Silva Chacana& Womersley
(not in the Benthic Flora)

50.620

Techniques needed and plant shape



MACRO PLANT


tubular


Classification Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

***Descriptive name** deep water velvet fork-weed

Features plants yellow-green, to 300mm tall, branches cylindrical, rubbery with a velvety surface, 3-6 mm in diameter, forked ***many*** times tapering gradually towards bullet-nosed or sometimes pointed tips

Special requirements

shave off or tease out a few of the microscopic, flask-shaped outer structures (utricles) and view them under the microscope.
Utricles are squat, flat with a slightly thickened wall at the top and paired threads basally containing an internal constriction (plug) a little distant from the base

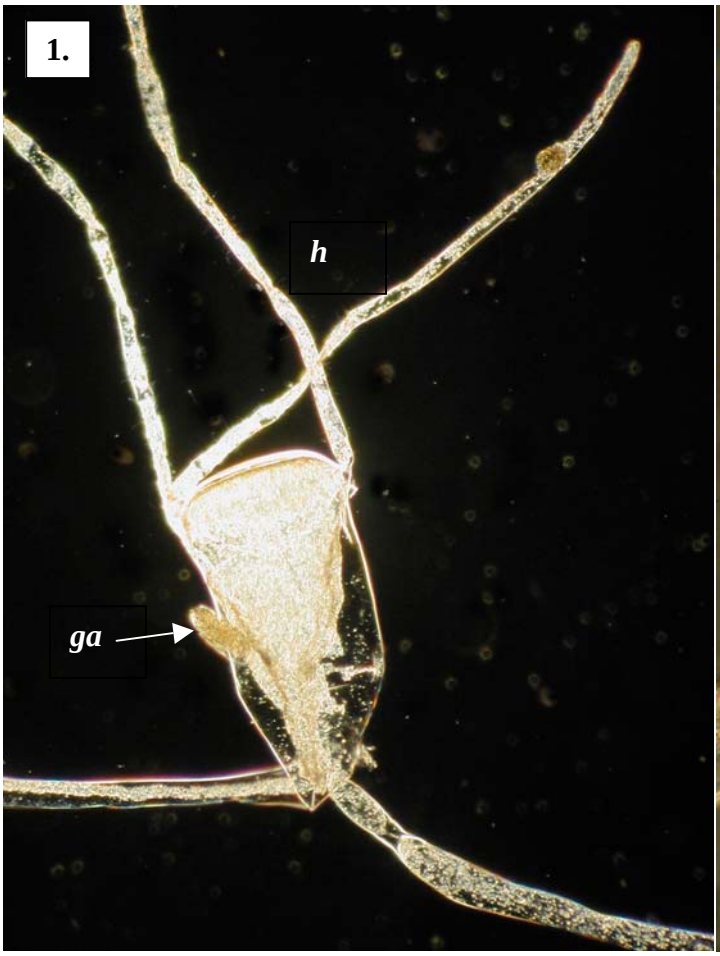
Occurrences W. Australia? Gulf waters and West Coast islands, S Australia

Usual Habitat on rock at depth (to 25m)

Similar Species *Codium harveyi* , which has similar utricles, but branches are much narrower in that species

Description in the Benthic Flora not recorded

Details of Anatomy



Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Codium nuytsianum* (A69496) viewed microscopically at different magnifications
1. utricle showing slight apical wall thickening (arrowed), a reproductive organ (gametangium, *ga*) and hairs (*h)*
2. utricle near its base showing a plug (*pl*) a short distance from the start of the basal thread

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, September 2003

3.

5.

4.

3, 4. *Codium apiculatum* Silva, Chacana & Womersley (69496) from Althorpe I., S. Australia
   3. habit
   4. detail of the narrow tips from which the species gets its name

5. shaving from a branch surface viewed microscopically, highlighting the squat shape of utricles and thin cell walls

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