

Techniques needed



MACRO
PLANT



Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

*Descriptive name

green bird-dropping

Features

plants dark green, flat on rock, to 150mm across and 10mm thick, lobed, rubbery

Special requirements



shave off or tease out a few of the microscopic, flask-shaped outer structures (utricles) and view them under the microscope.

Utricles cylindrical, 400-800µm long and 50-100µm in diameter, *pinched* near the top, apex rounded walls thick, end wall *pitted*, and pairs of threads basally

Occurrences

central W Australia to southern coastlines, N coast Tasmania and southern Queensland

Usual Habitat

on rock in the lower intertidal to shallow water

Similar Species

Codium capitulatum. Microscopic investigation of the utricles is needed to separate the species.

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 227-229

Details of Anatomy



Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Codium lucasii* (A18830) viewed microscopically at different magnifications
1. tips of utricles and a single reproductive organ (gametangium, *ga*) showing the thick walls, particularly at the tips
2. utricule tip showing the thickened and *pitted* end wall (arrowed) and slightly lop-sided bulbous tip. A single reproductive organ (gametangium, *ga*) with terminal lid is also present

3.

Codium
Sorrento
v.s.l. pool
2



4. magnified view of *Codium lucasii* Setchell, (A18830) from Sorrento, Victoria
5. utricles and a few detached filaments from a shaving of the plant surface, viewed microscopically The characteristic constriction near the tips of utricles is a feature of the species (A18830)

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