

Techniques needed and plant shape



MICRO
PLANT



Classification

Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Codiaceae

***Descriptive name**

wavy green cushion

Features

plant yellow green, a flat cushion on rock, at first rubbery later spongy, about 200mm across, and 15mm thick, surface wavy, edges lobed

Special requirements



shave off or tease out a few of the microscopic, flask-shaped outer structures (utricles) and view them under the microscope. Utricles club-shaped, 2-6mm long and 400-520µm in diameter, smaller ones arising directly from the middle part of larger ones with a basal, internal plug

Occurrences

central W Australia to Victoria and in Queensland. In the adjacent Indian, S Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

Usual Habitat

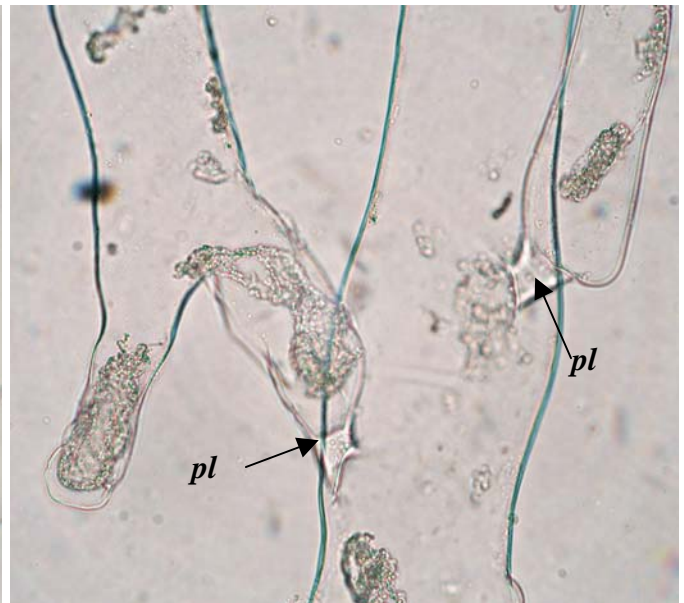
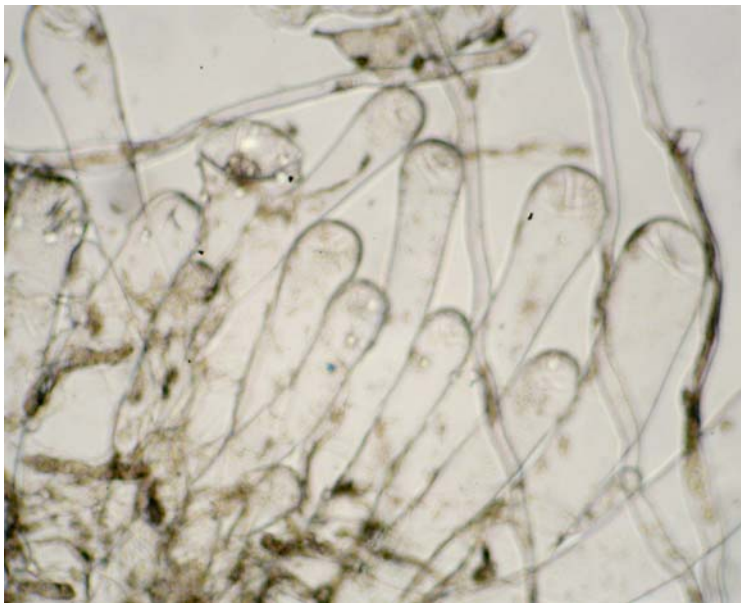
on rock in shallow calm waters

Similar Species

Codium lucasii, but that species more tightly adheres to rock. Microscopic investigation of the utricles is needed to separate the species.

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 228-230

Details of Anatomy



Preserved specimens of *Codium spongiosum* (A19383) viewed microscopically at different magnifications

1. club-shaped utricles with a few detached filaments from a shaving of the plant surface
2. detail of the bases of two utricles showing how they connect with the middle part of a larger utricle. Prominent plugs (*pl*) occur at their junctions. None exist in filaments (not shown)



Codium spongiosum Harvey, (A13751b), from Coffin Bay, S. Australia