

CYSTOPHORA LOOK-ALIKES

Cystoseira trinodis

main axes bunched from a common base

ultimate branches (ramuli) thin but compressed

floats thin, compressed, embedded in ultimate branches (ramuli) often pinched along their length

sterile plants are recognised from the numerous branch stubs on denuded main axes

fertile branches (receptacles) beadlike when dried

Caulocystis uvifera — floats spherical

Caulocystis cephalornithos — floats spindle-shaped (narrowed at both ends)

***Caulocystis* — floats attach directly to the main axis**

Acrocarpia robusta — W Australia only

Acrocarpia paniculata

fertile ultimate branches cylindrical but bumpy and densely bunched

Wiry axes arise from a stumpy base. Axes often covered with encrusting red algae

***Acrocarpia* — spirally arranged ultimate branches (ramuli). Floats absent**

***Sargassum* — bottom parts often leaf-shaped; annual, fertile upper parts different in shape, floats if present clustered at the base of side axes, often with apical thread**

basal leaf-shaped branches may be divided

contrasting top parts thin with spherical floats

EXAMPLE: 1

float with apical thread

EXAMPLE: 2

basal serrated leaves decrease in size towards the plant tip.

EXAMPLE: 3