Dasycladus densus
Womersley

A SPECIES WITH FEW RECORDS

50.750

Techniques needed and plant shape

MICRO PLANT

tubular

Classification Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Dasycladales; Family: Dasycladaceae

***Descriptive name** sandy worm weed

Features plants 20-60mm tall, of several dark green, spongy cylinders attached at the base, in sand in shallow water

Special requirements

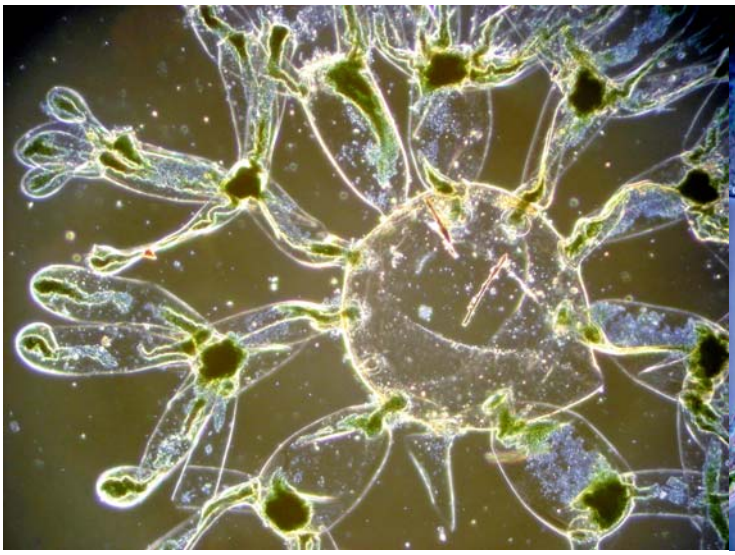
1. cut a cross section of cylinders and view the ***wheel-like*** internal branching pattern under the microscope (a central, large, ***siphon-like*** thread with about 10 ***radiating*** branches branching 2-3 times; the outermost segments club-shaped
2. chloroplasts ***minute*** and ***numerous***
3. cross walls punctured (not visible in the images below) so that the whole of the plant is in essence single cell (a ***coenocytic*** condition)

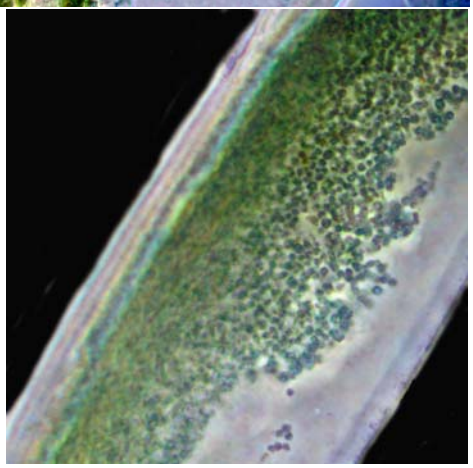
Occurrences only known from Point Fowler, Great Australian Bight, S. Australia and Hopetoun, W. Australia on sand-covered rock, 2-4m deep, rare, but occurring in dense patches

Similar Species unique, and allied to tropical species

Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 293-295, 299

Details of Anatomy





Preserved (bleached) specimens of *Dasycladus densus* (slide 044) viewed microscopically at different magnifications
1. cross section through a cylinder, highlighting the wheel-like internal branching pattern
2. detail of the insertion (arrowed) of branched laterals into the central siphon
3. surface view of highly magnified part of a branch show the minute, disc-like chloroplasts

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, February 2005

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