Episporium centroceratis
Moebius

A SPECIES WITH FEW RECORDS

25.800.88

Techniques needed, and shape



MICRO PLANT


Classification

Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: ?Ceramiales; Family: ?Ceramiaceae;
of uncertain status (possibly a separate Tribe within the Ceramiaceae)

***Descriptive name**

Centroceros parasite

Features

plants form pale spots up to 0.5mm across on the thread-like alga, *Centroceros*

Special requirements

view microscopically to find:

- cells with ***no*** coloured bodies (plastids), ***rounded*** mass of small-celled branches on the surface of the host, internally a ***larger*** basal cell and short central thread of several larger cells
- female structures — obscure 2-celled fertile (carpogonial) branches each with a prominent, ***long***, hair-like trichogyne attached
- male plants with very small spermatangia at the ***tips*** of branches.

Occurrences

NW Australia, Lord Howe I. and from only Wanna in S Australia; S Africa

Usual Habitat

at low tide level, on *Centroceros*

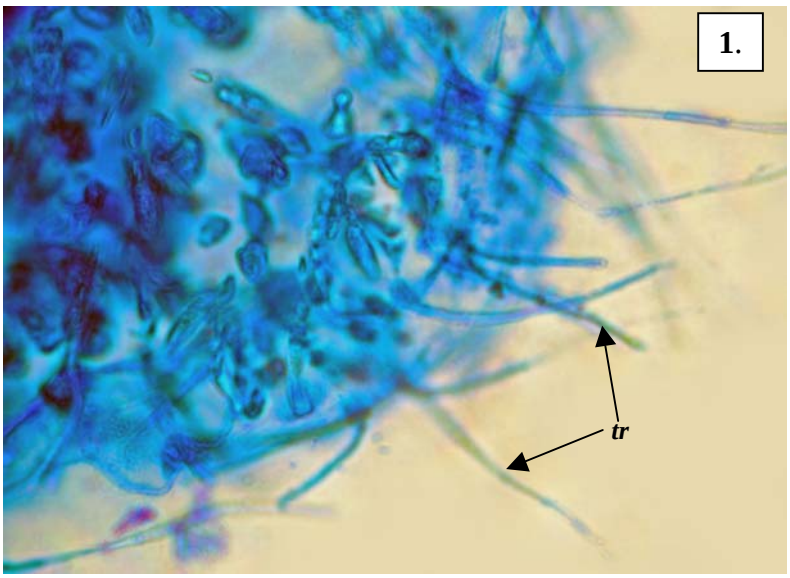
Similar Species

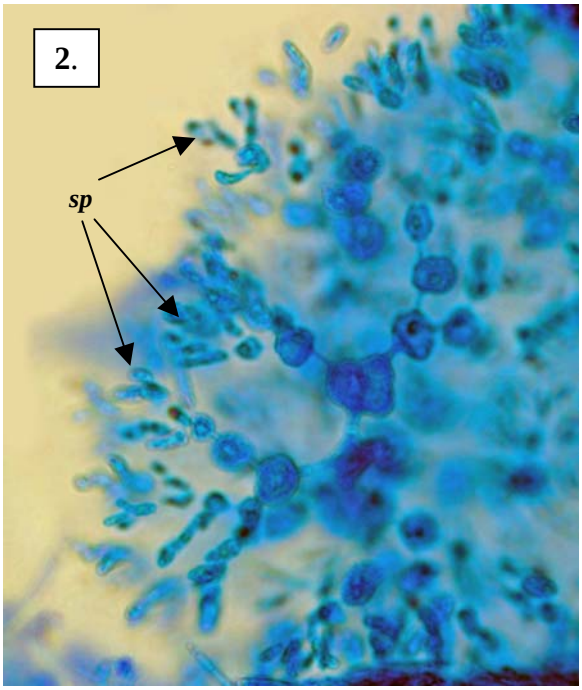
superficially like other parasitic red algae such as *Pophyridium*, but colourless, and apparently restricted to *Centroceros*

Description in the Benthic Flora

Part IIIC, pages 421, 422

Details of Anatomy

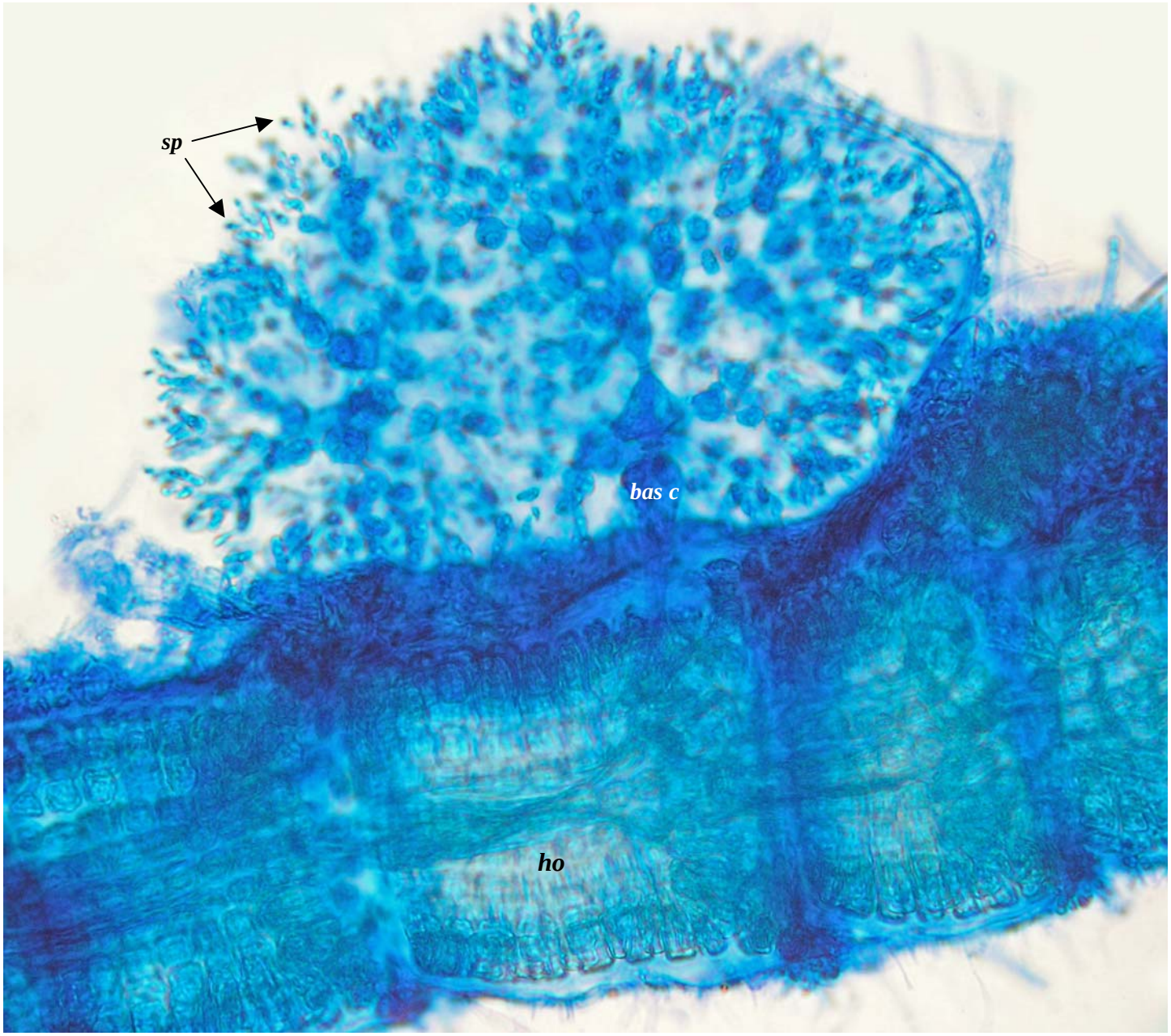




Episporium centroceratis A63366 stained blue and viewed microscopically
1. surface of a female plant with emerging hair-like trichogynes (*tr*) (slide 17003)
2. surface of a male plant showing branches ending in spermatangia (*sp*) (slide 17005)

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

3. *Episporium centroceratis* Moebius (A63366 slide 17005) stained blue and viewed microscopically.
   A male plant, parasitic on its host (*ho*), *Centroceros*, showing
   - the large basal cell (*bas c*)
   - small, pale branches forming a hemispherical body 0.5mm across
   - branches tipped with spermatangia (*sp*)



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