

Techniques needed and shape



Classification

Division: Rhodophyta; Family: Delesseriaceae; Tribe: Nitophylloideae
Group: *Cryptopleura*

*Descriptive name

Flat-branched Cellophane Plant

Features



plants 80-200mm tall, deep red or red-brown, of filmy blades 4-8mm wide, branched alternately from blade edges, midline veins **absent**, blade edges with **no serrations**

Variations

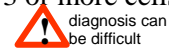
more irregular branching

Special requirements



view blades microscopically to view

1. the single row of small, dividing cells at blade edges that produce young blades one cell thick (older parts may be 3 or more cells thick)
2. vague microscopic veins, 1 cell wide
3. scattered patches of tetrasporangia near blade tips in sporangial plants



Occurrences

Usual Habitat

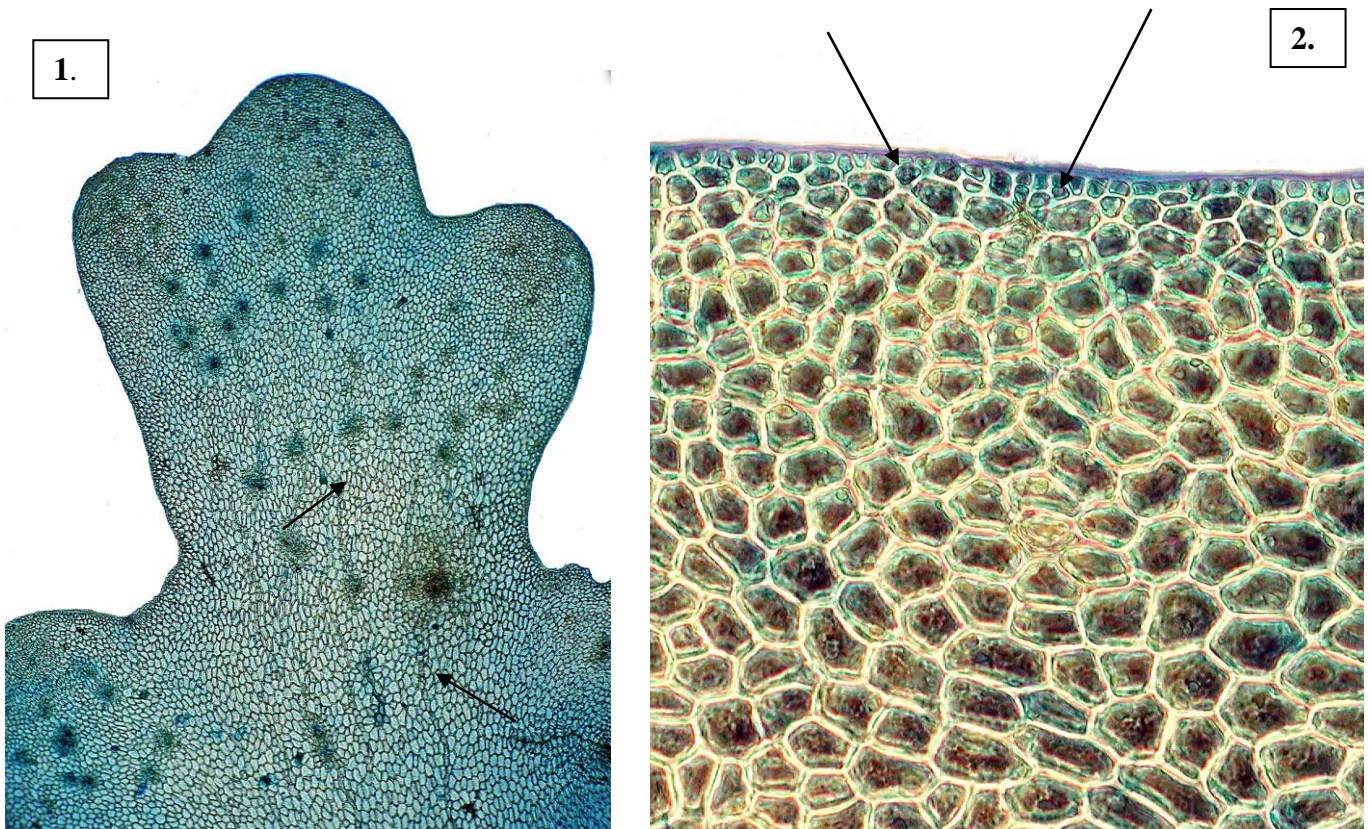
from Elliston West Coast S Australia, to Victoria & Tasmania
on rock, in moderately deep water

Similar Species

Hymenena multipartita, but in *H. affinis*, blades are broader, branching less regular and a thickened basal stalk is absent

Description in the Benthic Flora Part IIID, page 137-139

Details of Anatomy



Hymenena affinis stained blue and viewed microscopically

1. plant tip: alternate branching pattern; faint veins arrowed (slide 17340)
2. detail of blade margin: single row of dividing cells (arrowed) that increase the size of the blade (slide 17340)

3.



4.



3. *Hymenena affinis* (Harvey) Kylin, A42028, 10m deep from Fluted Cape, Bruny I., Tasmania
4. blade surface viewed microscopically without stain to demonstrate the difficulty of finding faint veins (arrowed) 1-cell wide (slide 17487)

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used
“Algae revealed”, R N Baldock, State Herbarium S Australia, March 2003; additions August 2007; edited April 2014