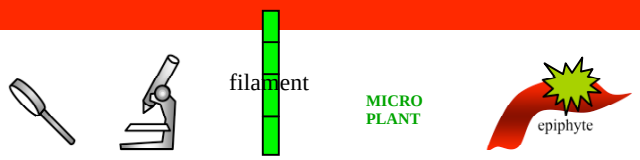
Interthamnion attenuatum Gordon

A SPECIES WITH FEW RECORDS

45.800.40

Techniques needed and plant shape



Classification Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Ceramiales; Family: Ceramiaceae; Tribe: Spermothamnieae

***Descriptive name** red zonaria-fuzz

Features plants form tiny red tufts to 2mm tall on the surface of the brown alga, *Zonaria*

Special requirements 1. view microscopically to locate

- ***creeping*** threads of naked cells attached to the host surface by ***branched*** (digitate) attachment organs (haptera) with erect threads of naked cells, often branching on ***one side*** only
- tetrahedrally divided tetrasporangia, §apparently stalkless, in short, ***clustered*** side branches
- tiny male spermatangial heads on ***one side*** of upright branches, §apparently stalkless
- ***small,*** 3-celled female fertile branches (procarps) with 4 short branches forming a loose wrapping (involucre) from the lowest (hypogenous) cell, ***3 groups*** of several cells developing from the middle (sub-apical) cell, an obscure, ***small*** fusion cell producing club-shaped carposporangia at its ***edges*** after fertilisation

(§ these observations of type material differ from the statements in the Flora)

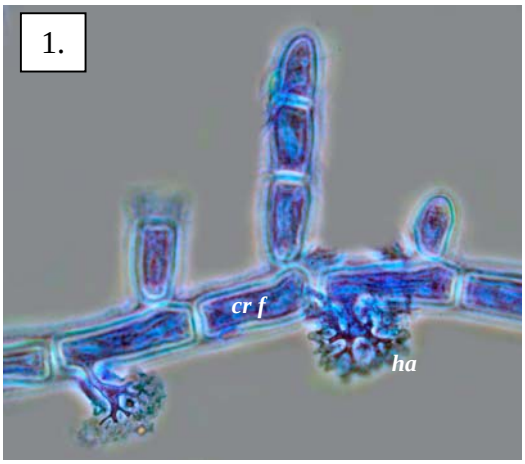
Occurrences only known from Tasmania

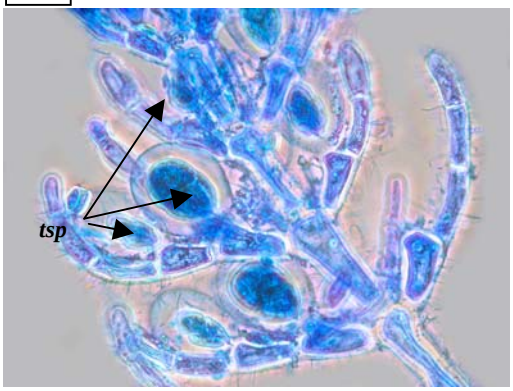
Usual Habitat on the brown alga, *Zonaria* from 2-12m deep

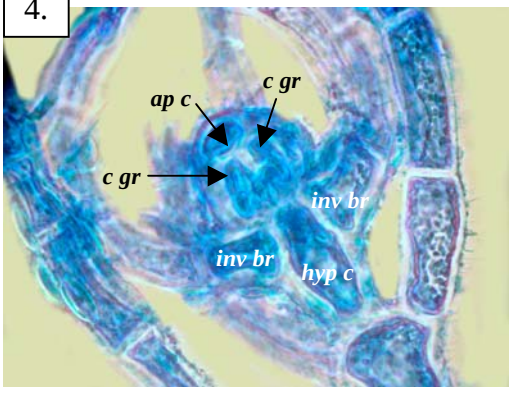
Similar Species many members of the Tribe: Spermothamnieae, and good female structures are essential for correct identification

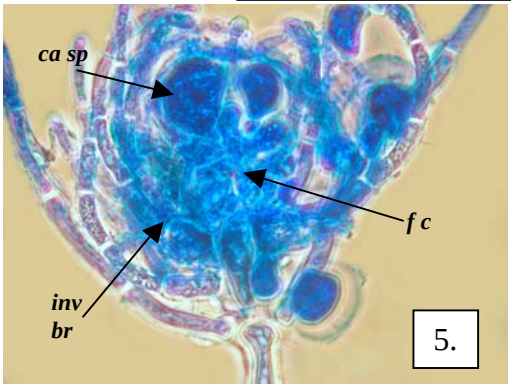
Description in the Benthic Flora Part IIIC, pages 221, 222

Details of Anatomy







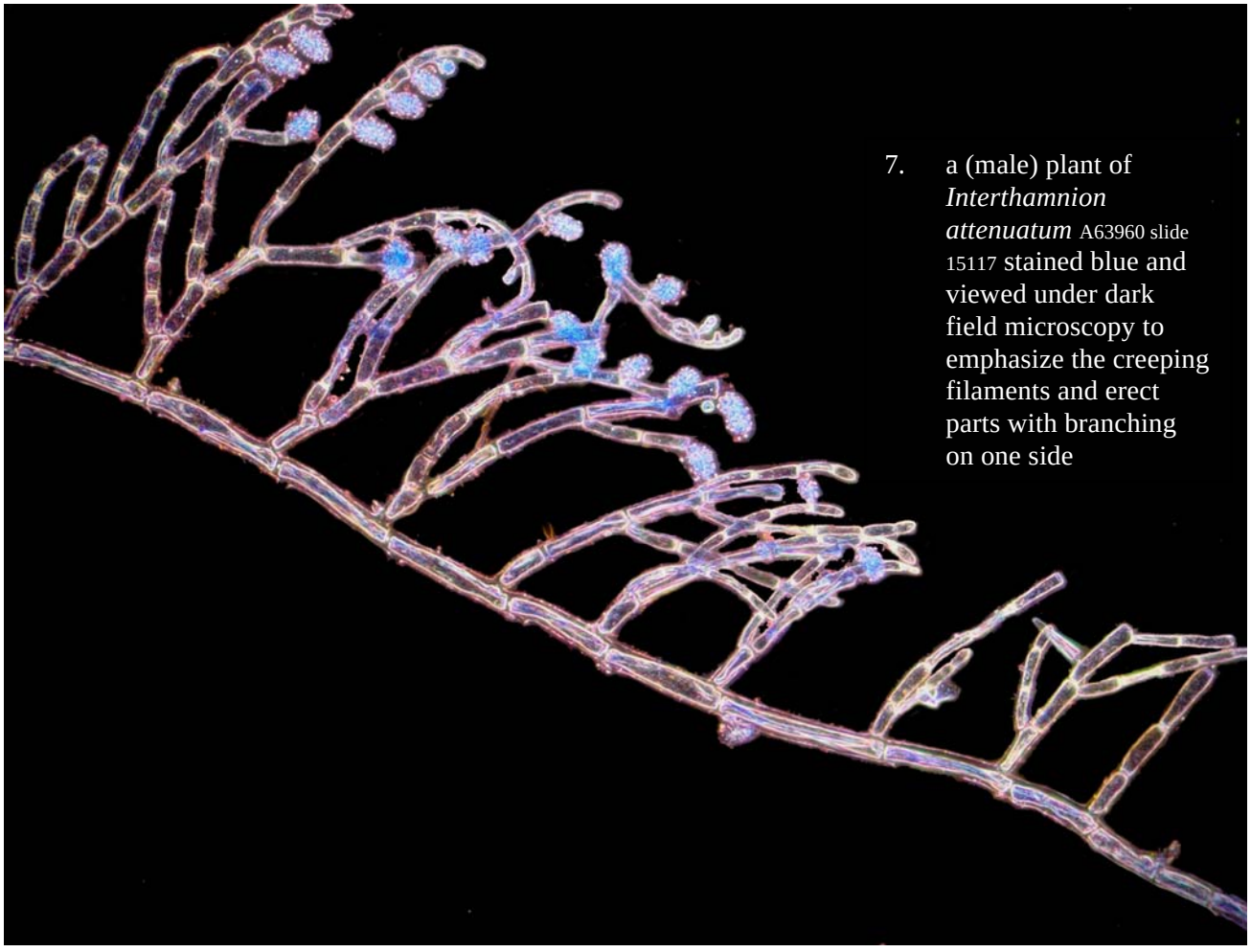


Interthamnion attenuatum (A63960 slide 15117) stained blue and viewed microscopically, showing

1. creeping thread (*cr f*) with branched attachment organs (haptera, *ha*)
2. tetrahedrally divided tetrasporangia (*tsp*) in clusters in side branches
3. male (spermatangial) heads, (*sp h*) on ***one side*** of branches
4. young 3-celled female branch with small cell groups (*c gr*) from the middle cell and involucral branches (*inv br*) from the lowest (hypogenous cell) (*hyp c*)
5. mature female structures with ***small*** fusion cell (*f c*), involucral branches and carposporangia (*ca sp*)

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used

6. *Interthamnion attenuatum* Gordon A29616. Type. Plants (arrowed) on *Zonaria spiralis* in upper sublittoral pools from Aldinga, S Australia



7. a (male) plant of *Interthamnion attenuatum* A63960 slide 15117 stained blue and viewed under dark field microscopy to emphasize the creeping filaments and erect parts with branching on one side

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