Rhipilia pusilla
(Womersley) Ducker

A SPECIES WITH FEW RECORDS

50.640

Techniques needed and plant shape

MICRO PLANT

tubular

turf

Classification Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Caulerpales; Family: Udoteaceae

***Descriptive name** green tufts

Features plants form dark green tufts about 15mm high, of loosely interwoven threads

Special requirements under the microscope forked (***dichotomous***) threads:-

- have ***no*** cross walls (***coenocytic***)
- are linear with ***wavy*** wall***s***, ***constricted*** just above forks
- are ***connected*** by short side branches, a feature of the genus

Occurrences known only from Pennington Bay, Kangaroo Island, S. Australia, but possibly more widespread as it is easily overlooked

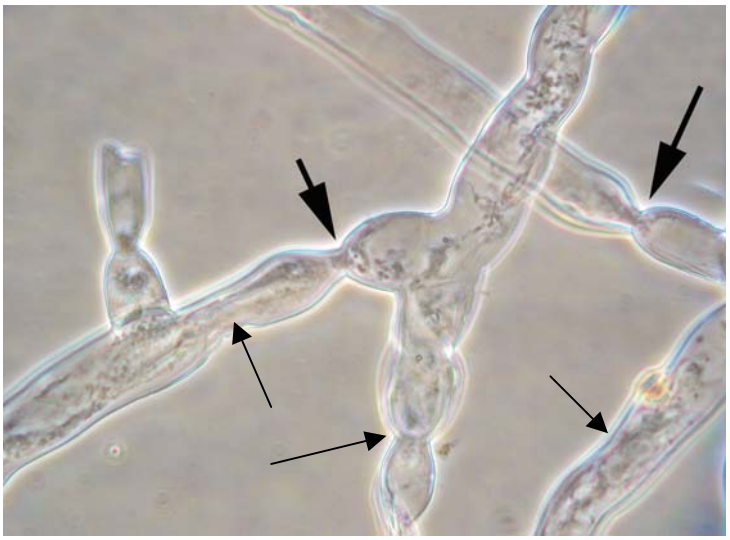
Usual Habitat in a shaded pool

Similar Species superficially like many filamentous green species, especially *Pseudochlorodesmis australis* (in the same Family) but in that species, filaments are loose and not interwoven or held together by short lateral branches

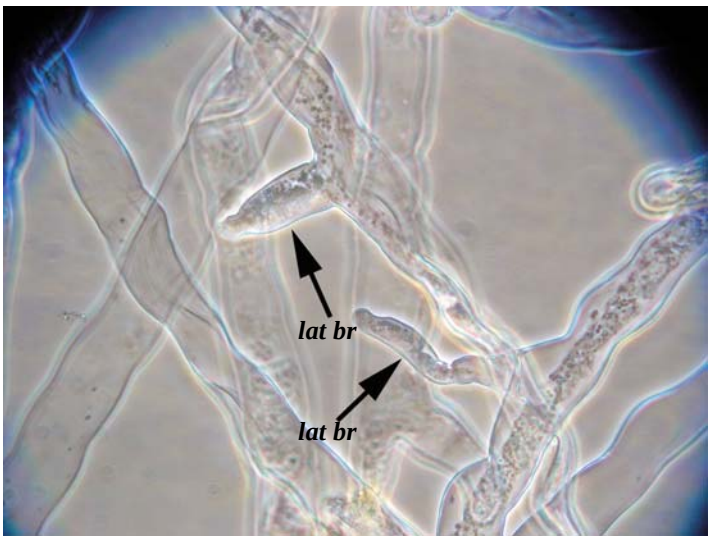
Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 247-249, 252

Details of Anatomy

1.



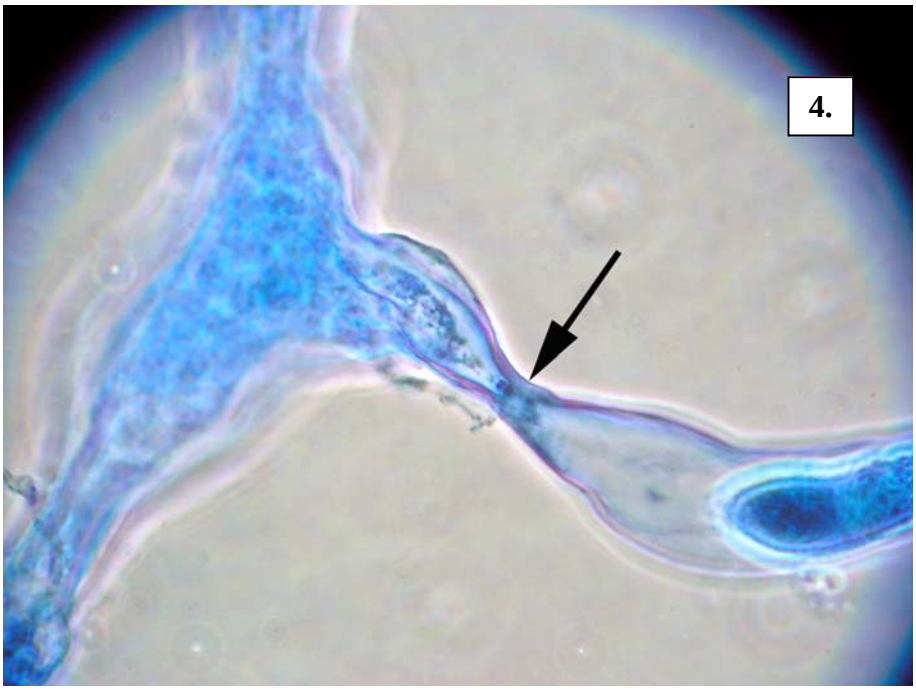
2.



1, 2. Two preserved (bleached) specimens of *Rhipilia pusilla* (slide 041) viewed microscopically ,showing forked threads lacking cross walls, constrictions just above the origin of a branch (thick arrows), wavy cell walls (small arrows) and short side branches (*lat br*) loosely binding threads together

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

3.



4.

3. *Rhipilia pusilla* (Womersley) Ducker (A20290) from Pennington Bay, Kangaroo Island, S. Australia in a shaded pool
4. microscope view of a specimen (slide 041) stained blue, showing the constriction just above a branch fork

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