

SARGASSUM LOOK-ALIKES

Cystoseira trinodis

main axes bunched from a common base

ultimate branches (ramuli) thin but compressed

floats thin, compressed, embedded in ultimate branches (ramuli) often pinched along their length

sterile plants are recognised from the numerous branch stubs on denuded main axes

fertile branches (receptacles) beadlike when dried

Caulocystis uvifera — floats spherical

Caulocystis cephalornithos — floats spindle-shaped (narrowed at both ends)

***Caulocystis* — floats attach directly to the main axis**

Acrocarpia robusta — W Australia only

Acrocarpia paniculata

fertile ultimate branches cylindrical but bumpy and densely bunched

Wiry axes arise from a stumpy base. Axes often covered with encrusting red algae

***Acrocarpia* — spirally arranged ultimate branches (ramuli). Floats absent**

***Cystophora* — no leaf-shaped parts; stubs of side branches often point downwards and give the axis a zigzag appearance; terminal thread absent on floats**

fertile branches (receptacles) with bumps (conceptacles)