Sphacelaria spuria Sauvageau

§ **(= *Herpodiscus spurius* (Sauvageau) Draisma, Prud'home & H. Kawai)**

A SPECIES WITH FEW RECORDS

34.320

Techniques needed and shape

Classification Phylum: Phaeophyta; Order: Sphacelariales; Family: Sphacelariaceae

***Descriptive name** feathery brown threads

Features plants brown, of dense tufts of feathery (pinnate) threads up to 12mm tall, on *Cystophora botryocystis*

Occurrences only one specimen known, from Brighton, Pt Phillip bay, Victoria, but possibly more widespread due to its diminutive nature

Usual Habitat on *Cystophora botryocystis*

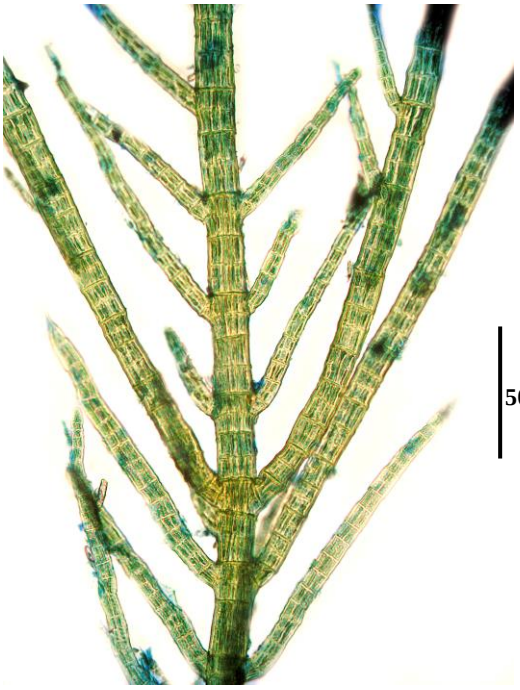
Special requirements view microscopically to find

- ***feathery*** (pinnate) branching
- apical cells with dense contents but unusually small for this species
- filaments with cells divided lengthwise and in bands (***segments***). Cells of some segments divide again (with ***secondary*** transverse or cross walls)
- single-compartmented (unilocular) sporangia in ***rows*** of 2-5 on upper sides of short side branches

Similar Species distinctive because of the ***pinnate*** branching and ***rows*** of sporangia

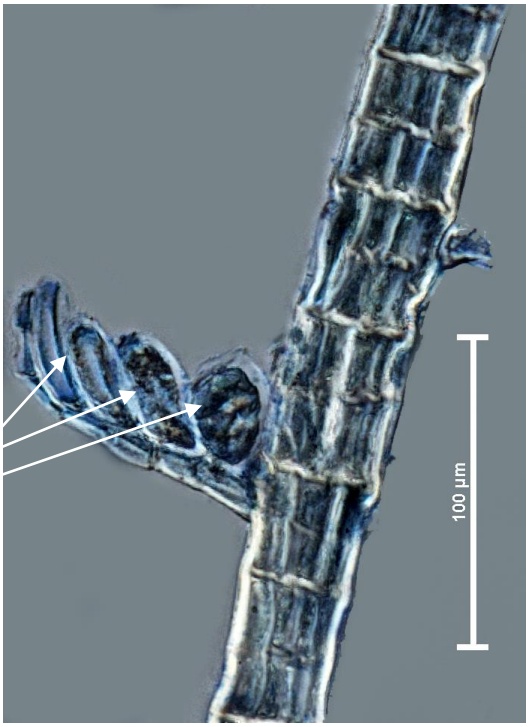
Description in the Benthic Flora Part II, pages 149, 151-152

Details of Anatomy



1.

2.



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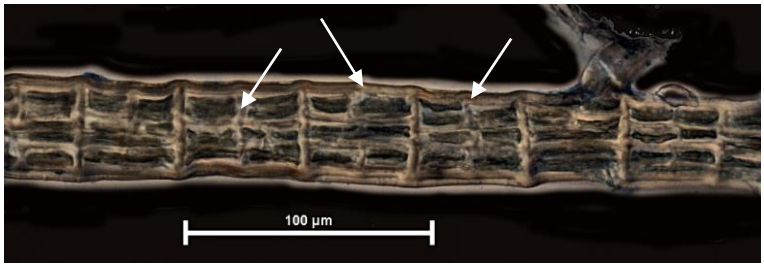

Sphacelaria spuria (A18448 slide 508), stained blue and viewed microscopically:

1. opposite, paired (pinnate) branching pattern
2. characteristic rows of single-compartmented (unilocular) sporangia (***uni sp***) on the upper (adaxial) side of a short side branch
3. banding (segmentation) and secondary divisions across cells (arrowed)

§ Species names used in the Flora have been retained as they rely solely on the shape and anatomy of plants. The genus *Herpodiscus* has been proposed for some species of *Sphacelaria* by Draisma, S. G. A., Prud'Homme van Reine, E. F. & Kawai, H. (2010). A revised classification of the Sphacelariales (Phaeophyceae) inferred from a *psb*C and *rbci* based phylogeny. *European Journal of Phycology* 45(**3**): 308-326. It is based on genetic markers and life cycle considerations, which, of course, are unavailable to field workers.

Sphacelaria spuria Sauvageau, (A18448, slide 0508) removed from *Cystophora botryocystis*, stained blue and viewed microscopically.
The main branches (axes) are about 30µm wide.