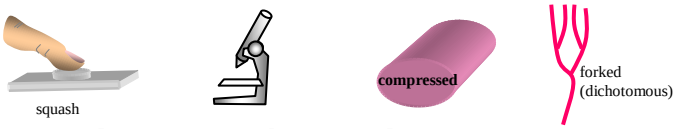
Tsengia comosa
(Harvey) Womersley & Kraft

45.360

Techniques needed and shape



Classification Phylum: Rhodophyta; Order: Gigartinales; Family: Nemastomataceae

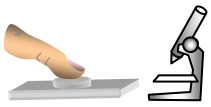
***Descriptive name** fringed red slimy-weed

Features plants dark red, fading to grey-red, ***slimy***, 200-800mm tall with several ***flattened***, forked main branches ***4-15mm*** wide, ***fringed*** with numerous, slightly flattened short side branches

Occurrences West Coast, S Australia to Victoria

Usual Habitat in deep water or shaded shallow depths on rough water coasts

Special requirements



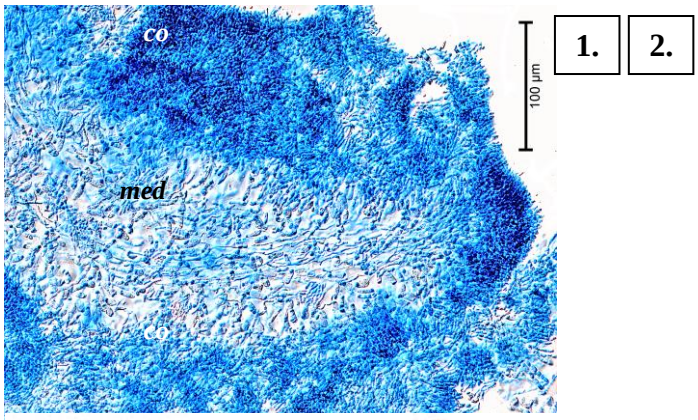
gently squash tissue under a coverslip and view microscopically to find

- central (medulla) mass of intertwined threads, outer layers (cortex) of branched chains of egg-shaped cells facing outwards, inner cells large, grading outwards to small cells
- in sporangial plants: scattered tetrasporangia in outer layers, divided irregularly in a cross pattern
- in female plants: patches of large carposporangia outer layers

Similar Species when young with few fringes, *Tsengia comosa* may resemble *T. feredayae*

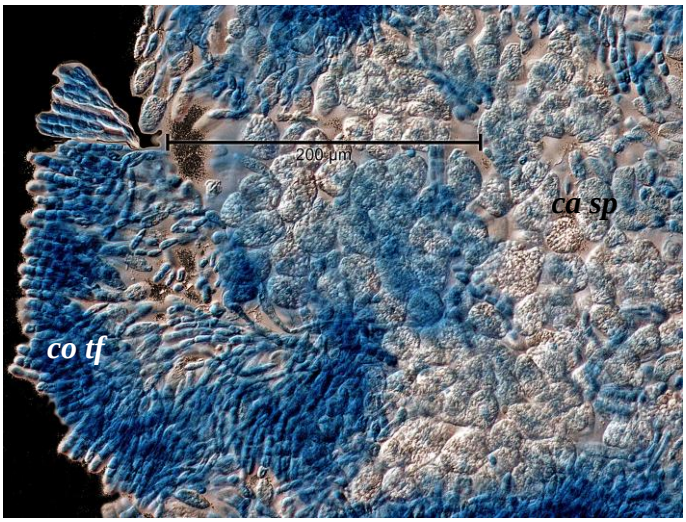
Description in the Benthic Flora Part IIIA, pages 275, 278–279

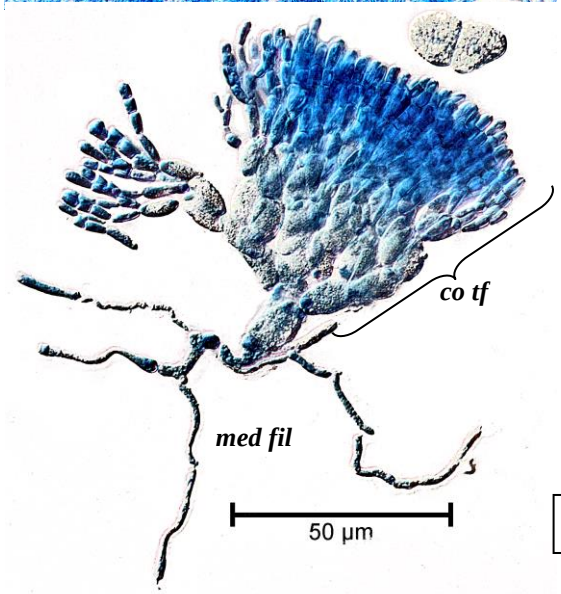
Details of Anatomy



1.

2.





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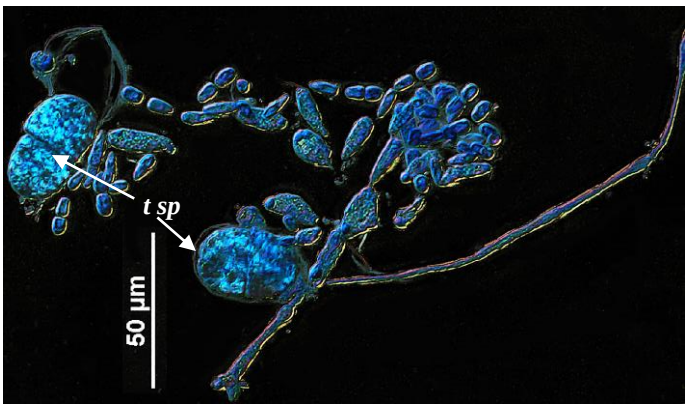


Tsengia comosa stained blue and viewed microscopically (#1-#3 A31114; #4, slide 13217)

1. branch tip: central (medulla, ***med***) mass of intertwined threads, outer layers (cortex, ***co***) of small, egg-shaped cells
2. squash of female tissue: mass of carposporangia (***ca sp***), adjacent cortical tufts (***co tf***)
3. dissected cortical tuft (***co tf***): basal cells large, ultimate cells small: core threads (***med fil***)
4. partly divided tetrasporangia (***t sp***) on detached cortical tufts

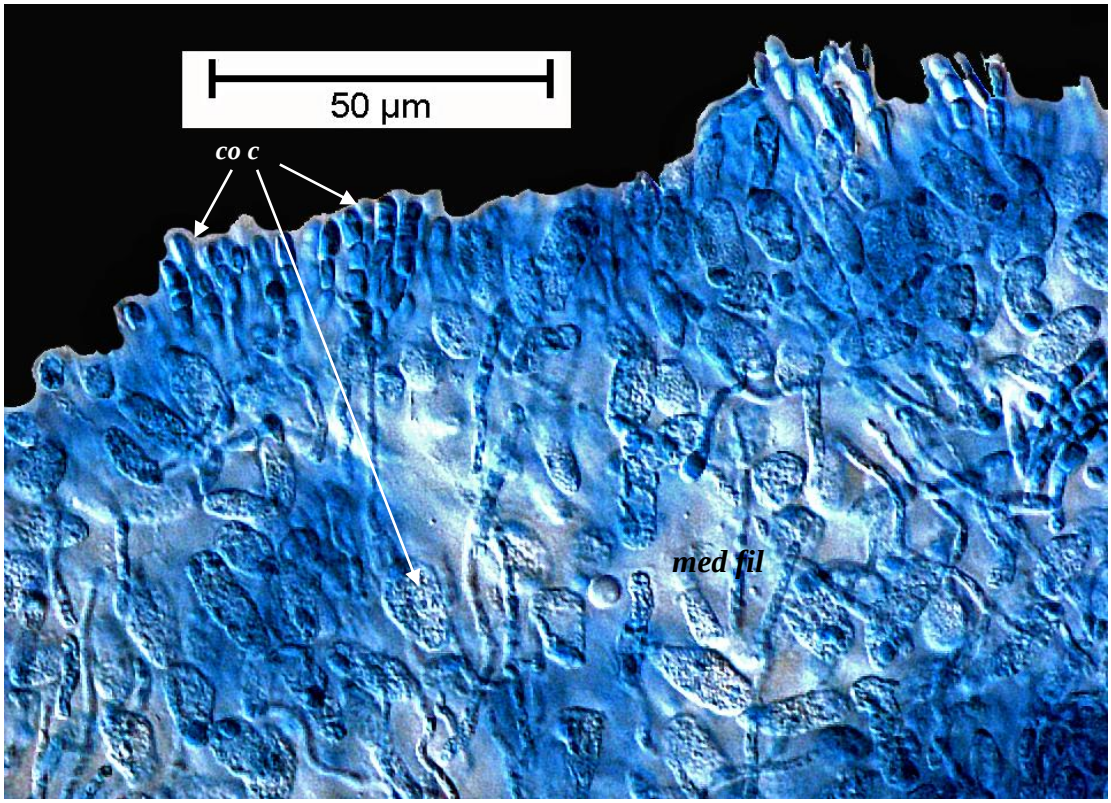
* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used

"Algae Revealed", R N Baldock, State Herbarium S Australia, December 2011; revised August 2014

5.

6.

7.



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5, 6. two magnifications of a drift plant (A29677) from Victor Harbor, S Australia

7. tissue squash (slide 21131) stained blue and viewed microscopically: large inner and small cells outer (cortical cells, ***co c***), core (medulla) threads (***med fil***)

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