



Cladophora rupestris

Common name: Common green branched weed.

Irish name: Slobán.

Phylum: Chlorophyta
Class: Ulvophyceae
Order: Cladophorales
Family: Cladophoraceae
Genus: Cladophora
Species: *C. rupestris*



Fig 1. Plants of *Cladophora rupestris*.

Morphology

- Green alga, usually found in dense clumps, formed of fine branches of rough and straight threads.
- Thallus is dark green, sometimes with brown tips and can reach up to 20 cm in length
- The texture is coarse and rigid.

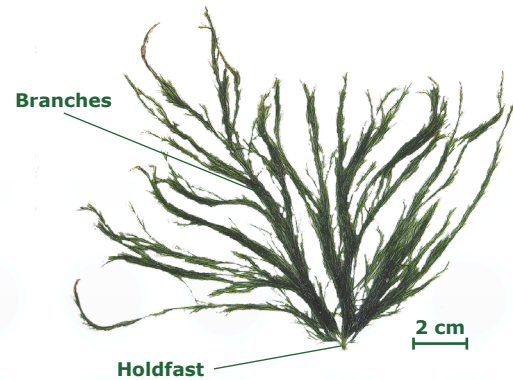


Fig 2. Morphology.

Reproduction

- *Cladophora rupestris* has two isomorphic macroscopic phases in the life-cycle (see LC3*). Male and female reproductive structures occur in different plants.



Fertile female and male gametes are found in the terminal cells at the tips of the branches.

Sporophyte: This phase is morphologically the same as the male and females and the zoospores are also found in the terminal cells at the tips of the branches.

*Note: Life-cycle 3 (LC3) on page 3.



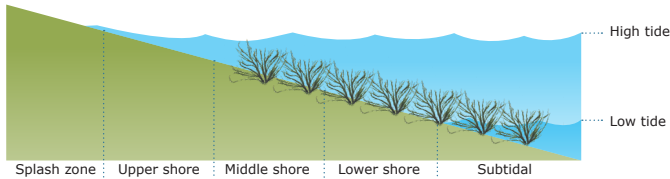
Fig 3. *Cladophora rupestris* on bedrock.



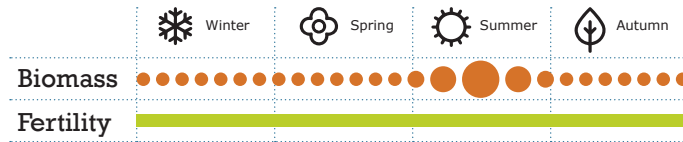
Cladophora rupestris

Distribution and habitat

- It is found in the NE Atlantic (from the Arctic shores to Portugal and the North Sea) and NW Atlantic (from the Arctic to New Jersey). Also found in Morocco, Brazil, Japan, Lord Howe Island (Australia) and in the Antarctic.
- Attaches to rock under cover of larger *Fucus* species and grows most abundantly in the mid-littoral zone in wave exposed rocky shores.



Seasonality



Note: These seasonal characteristics may vary slightly from year to year.

Wild resource and cultivation



interesting facts

- Species of the genus *Cladophora* are colonised by a wide variety of epiphytes and motile animals because they can offer protection from predation and provide food (either in the form of epiphytes, or itself).
- *Cladophora rupestris* appears to be widely distributed worldwide, can tolerate a wide range of salinities and occurs at all levels on the shore, making it a cosmopolitan species.



- *Cladophora rupestris* is perhaps the most easily identifiable member of the *Cladophora* genus. Approximately 19 species have been identified around Ireland and Britain, with some even living in freshwater environments.

© Pictures: Fig 1 by Michael D. Guiry and Figs 2 & 3 by Irish Seaweed Consultancy.

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