Techniques needed and plant shape













Classification

Phylum: Phaeophyta; Family: Dictyotaceae; Tribe: Dictyoteae

*Descriptive name

thin fork-tips

Features



- 1. plants dark brown, *thin* branches, flat, *regularly* forked (dichotomous
- 2. sparse sporangial patches and hair tufts are *scattered* along the thin blades

Variations a few small branches (proliferations) at right angles to blades occasionally occur at the base of the plant

Special requirements



- 1. view the *single* apical cells that *protrude* from the tips of branches
- 2. cut a cross section to view the *single* row of large cells of the inner (medulla) layer and *single* row of cells of the surface (cortex) layer

Occurrences Usual Habitat

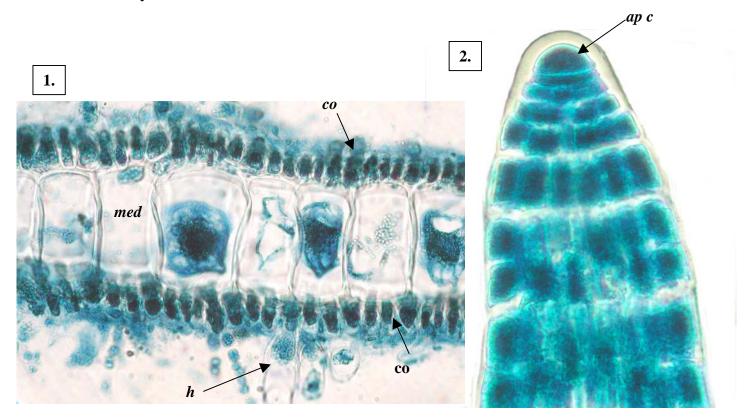
from Shark Bay W Australia, to Victoria and N Tasmania in rock pools on sheltered coasts to 35m deep,

Similar Species

Dictyota dichotoma var. intricata has similar narrow blades

Description in the Benthic Flora Part II, pages 196-197

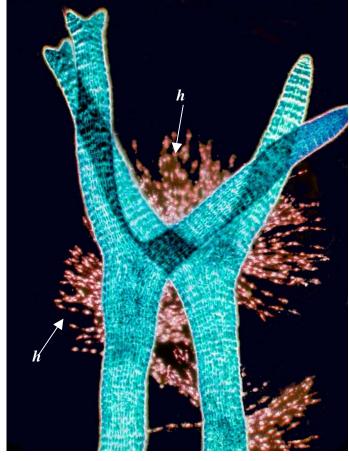
Details of Anatomy



- 1. protruding apical cell (ap c) at a branch tip (slide 9384)
- 2. cross section showing the single row of large inner (medulla, med) cells, and the single row of small surface (cortex, co) cells. Some fragments of chains of cells forming hairs (h) are also visible (slide 9383)



- 3. Dictyota furcellata (C Agardh) J Agardh (A8384b), in lower intertidal reef pools at Port Willunga, S Australia
- 4. dark field imaging of 2 (overlapping) branch tips emphasizing the even forking pattern and scattered hair tufts (*h*) (slide 9384)



* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used "Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, July 2003