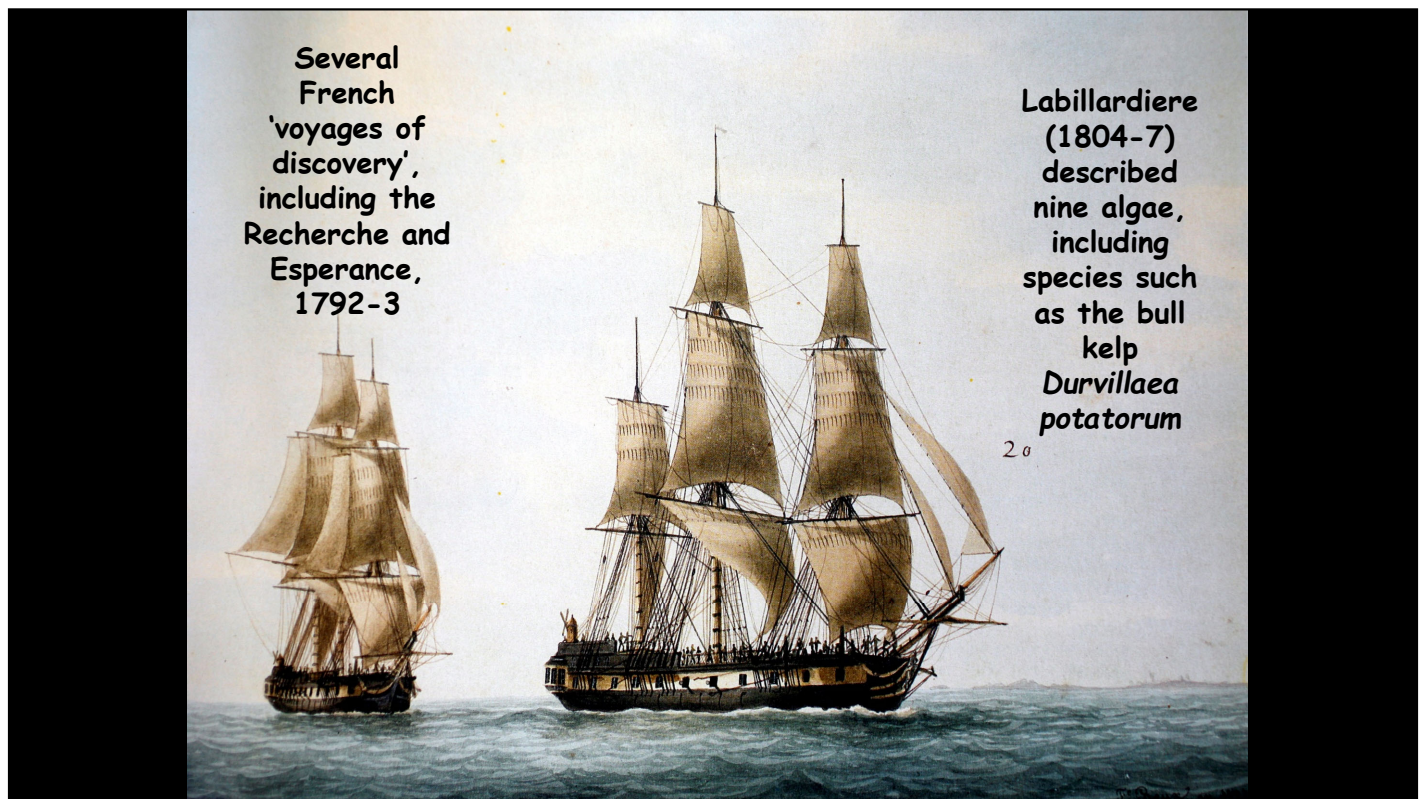


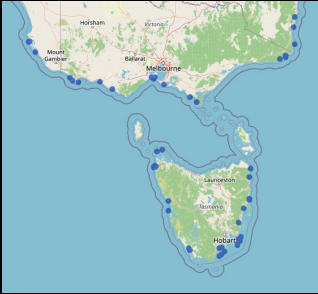


Many thanks for the opportunity to present at this symposium, and it's perhaps appropriate that the first talk is about some of the earliest discoveries of Australian seaweeds. I won't be presumptuous and suggest they are the earliest, as I'll not be talking about indigenous knowledge of seaweeds or the earlier voyages of discovery in any detail. My talk should probably have also been title 'Western' Australian seaweeds, as that is the focus of my research.



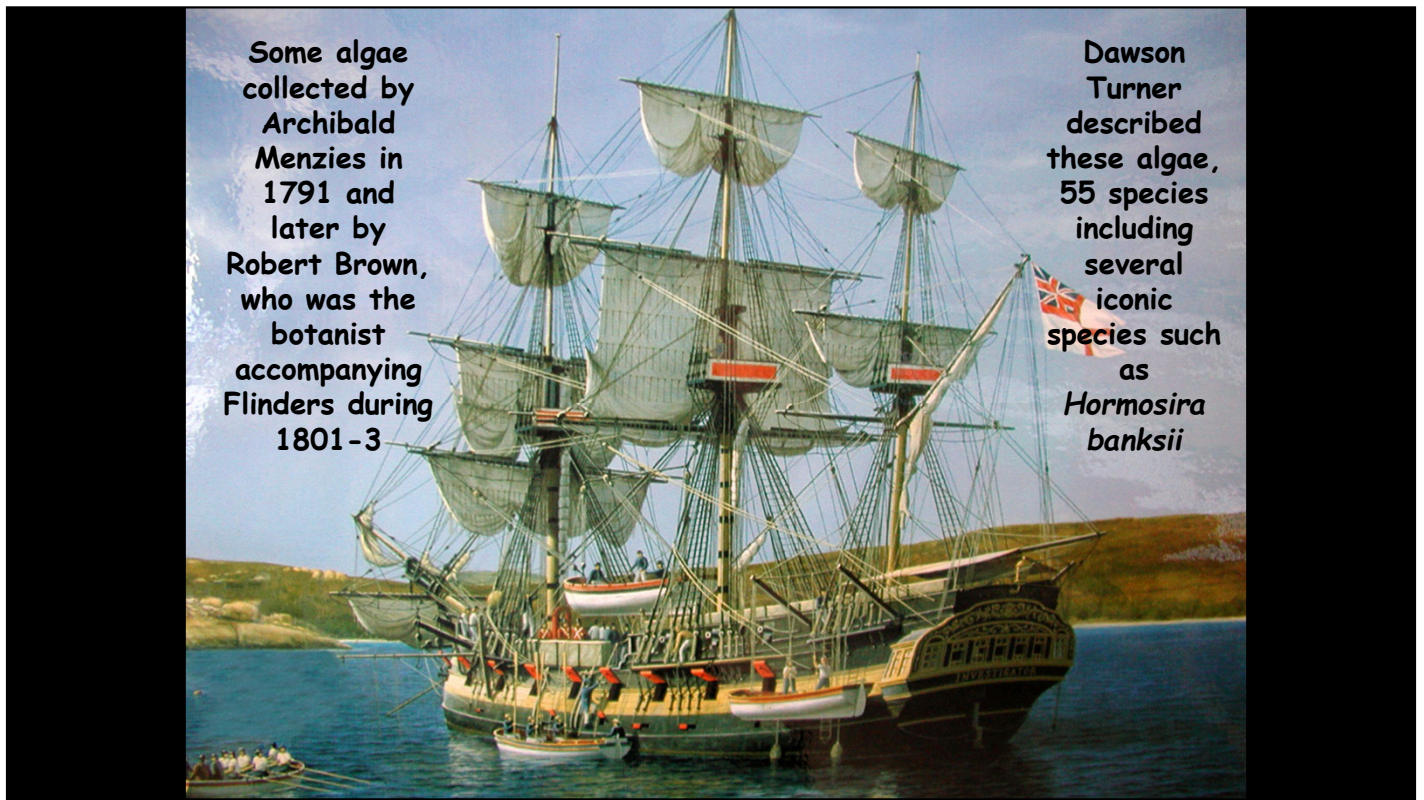
Recherche and Esperance. Before we get to Harvey, there were of course seaweeds collected by others.

Durvillaea
potatorum



Acetabularia
caliculus



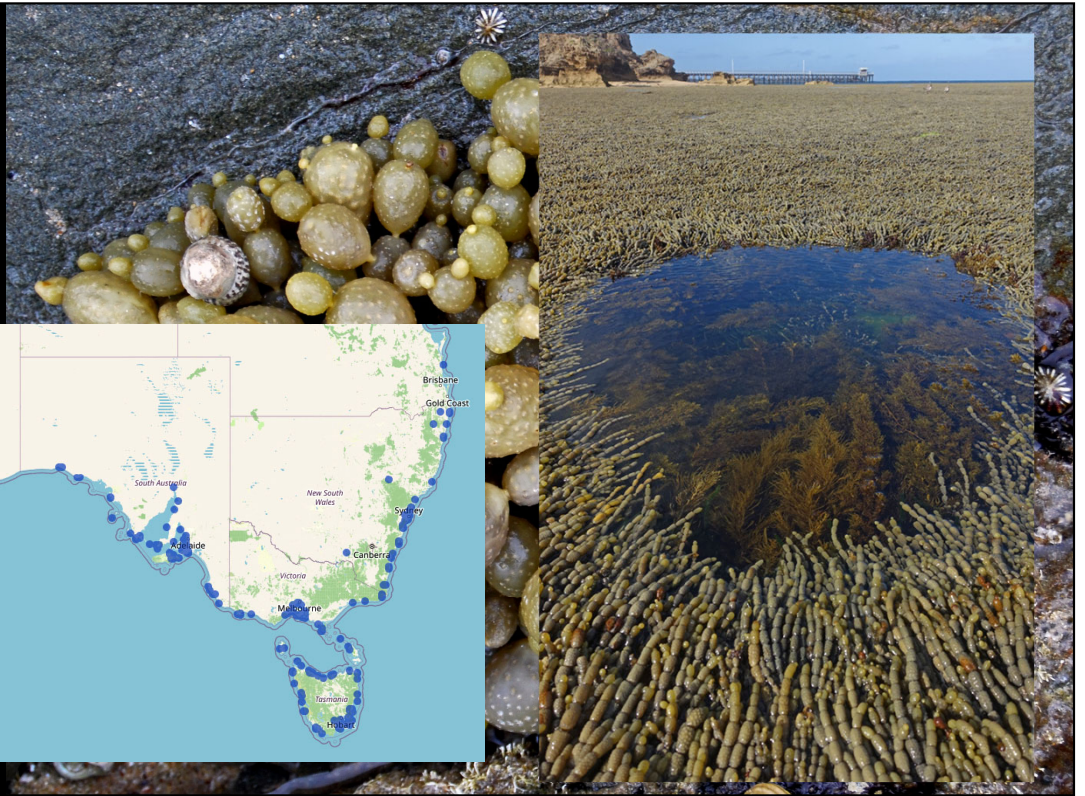
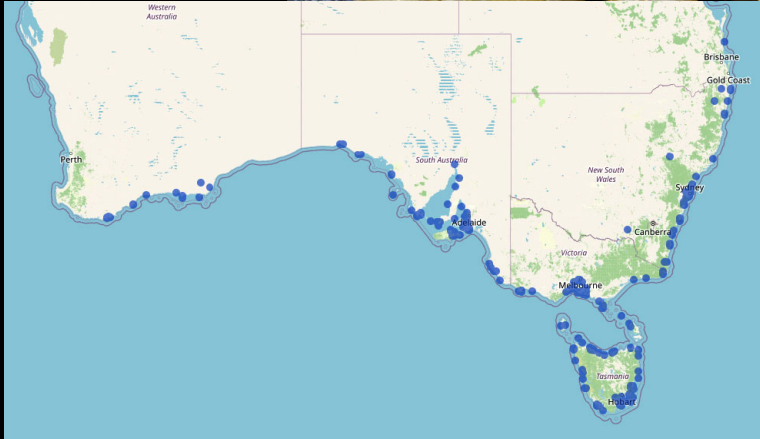


Some algae collected by Archibald Menzies in 1791 and later by Robert Brown, who was the botanist accompanying Flinders during 1801-3

Dawson Turner described these algae, 55 species including several iconic species such as *Hormosira banksii*

Discovery and Investigator. Before we get to Harvey, there were of course seaweeds collected by others.

Hormosira banksii



Hormosira banksia, as *Fucus banksii*

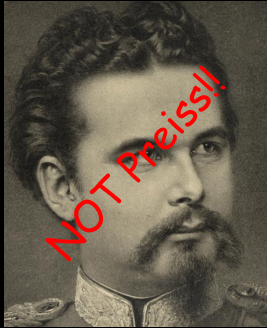
Fucus peniculus
now *Acetabularia*
peniculus



This is the type specimen of *Fucus peniculus*, collected at King George Sound in south-western Australia. Turner's illustration, and the species as it's found at Shark Bay.

Ecklonia radiata





Johann August Ludwig
Preiss

Lived in the Swan River colony from December 1838 to January 1842, making a large collection that included about 3000-4000 species, from an area extending from about 100 km north of Perth south to Albany and east to the vicinity of Cape Riche. More than 80 new species of algae.



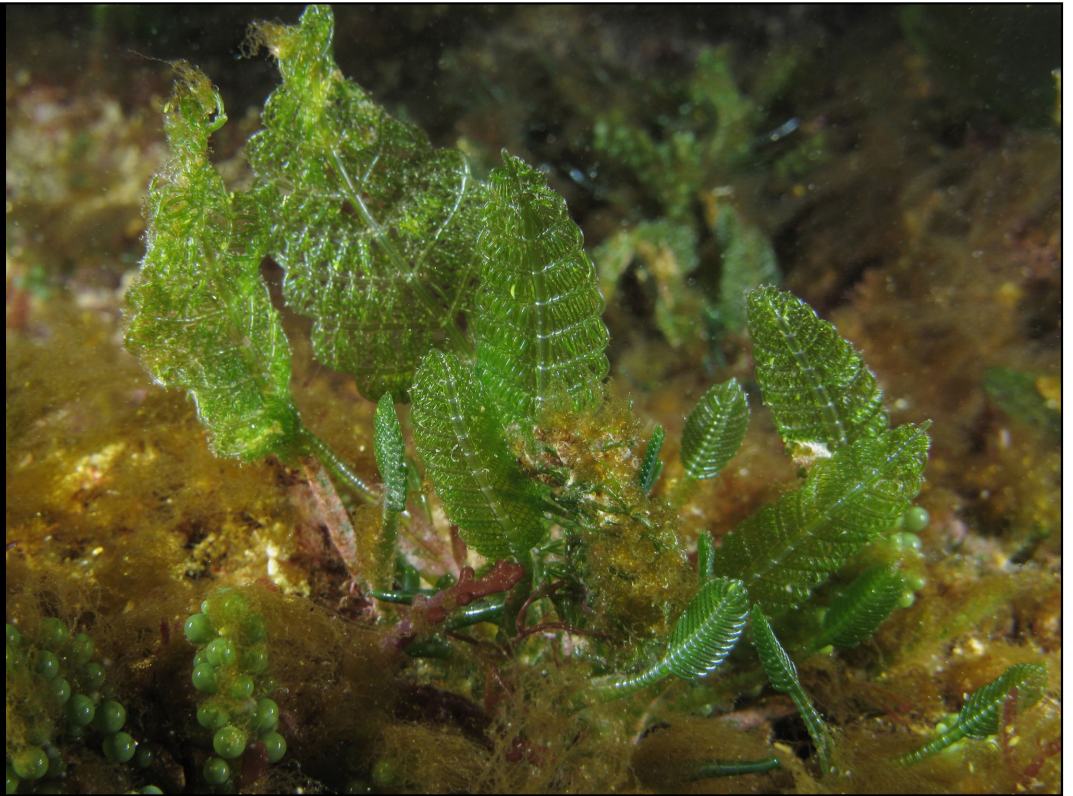
‘Mad’ King Ludwig of Bavaria

*Caulerpa
cylindracea*



Caulerpa cylindracea, which has been treated as *C. racemosa* but is now regarded as a separate species.

Struvea plumosa



Struvea plumosa, common just below low tide on rocky shores

Bryopsis foliosa



Struvea plumosa, common just below low tide on rocky shores

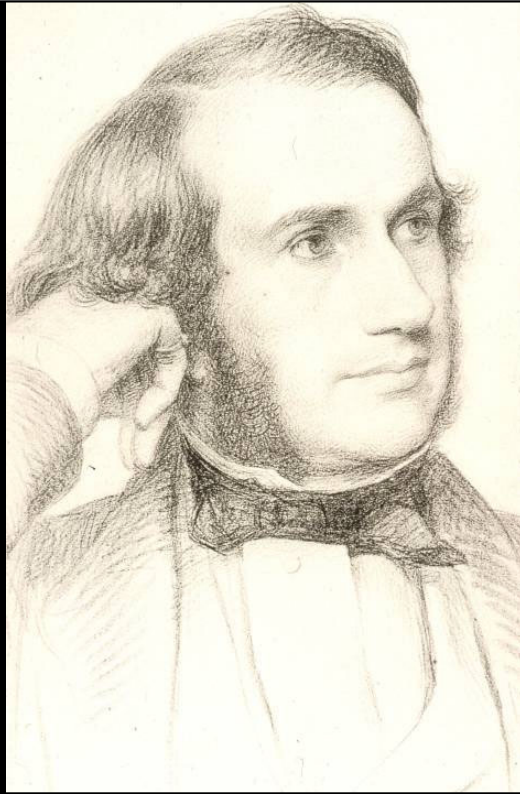
*Hymenocladia
dactyloides*



Hymenocladia dactyloides, epiphytic on the seagrass *Amphibolis*

William Henry
Harvey,
Irish Botanist

Visited Australia in
1854-1855, arriving in
Western Australia
where he made
collections from the
Fremantle region and
the south-west coast,
before moving to
Victoria, Tasmania and
New South Wales.



"exploring the
natural history
of the southern
coasts of that
continent ... and
for extensively
collecting
Marine Algae"

Moving to William Henry Harvey, the Irish botanist. Harvey arrived in Western Australia in 1854, with the express purpose of of "exploring the natural history of the southern coasts of that continent ... and for extensively collecting Marine Algae"

Harvey, 1855

20,000 specimens
during his 18 months in
Australia.

Harvey reported from
King George Sound "In
one day I collected
and preserved 700
specimens, some being
new kinds"

XX.—*Some Account of the Marine Botany of the Colony of Western Australia.*
By W. H. HARVEY, M. D., M. R. I. A., *Keeper of the Herbarium of the Uni-*
versity of Dublin, and Professor of Botany to the Royal Dublin Society, &c.

Read December 11, 1854.

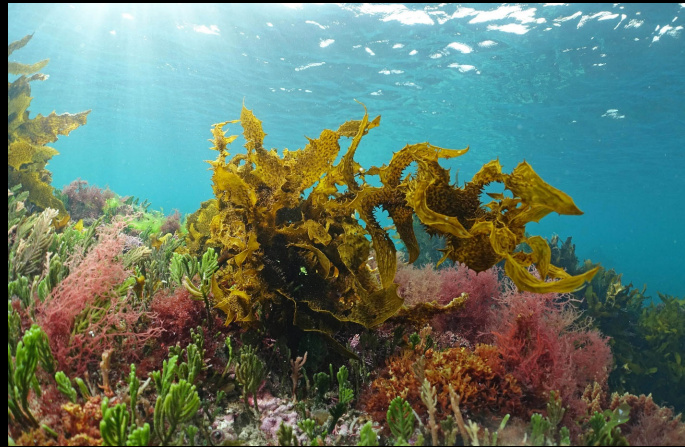
AT SEA, September 4, 1854.

Harvey had a set of Preiss's algae, so he was able to compare his new collections

Harvey, 1855

133 new species and
7 new genera were
described.

Harvey was also a
very engaging
writer, in a style no
longer found in
scientific texts.
His description of
the reefs of
Rottneest...



"At every few yards, deep basin-like hollows, of greater or lesser size, break the surface of the reef, and afford well-sheltered nooks for a variety of beautiful Algae. The water in these basins is always intensely transparent; the bottom frequently of white sand; and the steep and craggy sides clothed with Algae vegetation, in which the brightest tints of green, purple, carmine, and olive, and the most graceful waving forms, are mingled in rich variety."

He was a very engaging writer and his memoirs and collections of letters are available online. Some examples regarding the reefs of Rottneest.



Asparagopsis armata, currently the topic of much research

'Twice as thick as a hog's bristle' and other irregular units of measure

John M. Huisman, WA Herbarium

Taxonomists are often diving back into historical literature, hoping to gain insights based on the original descriptions of species. Prior to the general adoption of the smaller units of the metric or imperial systems, botanists used traditional units related to human body parts or other natural objects. This relationship can also be seen in the historical development of units, the 'foot' being perhaps the more obvious. The 'inch' was originally the width of the human thumb, but was decreed by King Edward II of England in 1324 to be the length of three grains of barley, dry and round, placed end to end, lengthwise. When botanists required a smaller unit, the 'line' was used, which was 1/12 the length of a barleycorn (i.e., 1/12 of an inch or 2.12 mm). This attempt at standardisation (the British line) was hampered by a competing measure, the Paris line, which is slightly larger at 2.25 mm (see Stearn, 1992, who gave approximate lengths for a variety of measures based on the human body).

Despite heeding the warning of Klein (1974), 'the confusions and contradictions of historical unit usage defy the most ingenious present-day attempts to harmonize them or to explain them away', I have, for no other reason than my own amusement and with no claims to accuracy, endeavoured to establish measurements of other historical units used in phylogenetic literature. These have mostly been taken from Dawson Turner's 'Fuci' (1809, 1811) but also the writings of William Henry Harvey, everyone's favourite nineteenth-century phycologist. As most of these related to the thickness of bird quills, I initially consulted Dr Lukas Jenni of the Swiss Ornithological Institute, the author of the seminal 'Determinants and constraints of feather growth' (Jenni *et al.*, 2020). That paper (and references therein) gave measurements of some, but not all the species of interest. Dr Jenni, who was unaware of this botanical usage, then pointed me in the direction of various online feather resources, of which 'Featherbase' (<https://www.featherbase.info/en/home>) not only gave numerous images of feathers, but provided the tools to measure

their components. As the most likely 'standard' feathers were those used for writing until the mid 19th century, I selected the largest and most robust for measurement. One non-bird-related example is that of Harvey, who in 1855 described the frond of *Asparagopsis armata* as being 'twice as thick as a hog's bristle' (Figure 1). For this I initially consulted the literature (Jiang *et al.*, 2021), however as that study only assessed immature animals (bristle diameter 18–49 µm) I also took direct measurements of hog's bristles removed from an artist's brush. These were considerably larger at 100–220 µm. Womersley's (1996) figures of *A. armata* indicates a main branch diameter of c. 500 µm, which is comparable to twice the upper measure, agreeing with Harvey's statement.

The dimensions of 'pack thread' (Turner, 1809) presented some difficulty. As the name suggests, packthread is a strong twine used for tying up packages. As the diameter of twines can vary depending on the intended use, and I was unable to find information regarding historical twines, I took the branch diameters (Womersley, 2003) of one of Turner's species (*Fucus forsteri*, now in *Laurencia*) and used that as the standard.

Human hair can also vary considerably. Jiang *et al.* (2021) gave 16–42 µm diameter, and my own scalp hair measured a comparable 36–40 µm diameter, however my facial hair was considerably more stout at 100–110 µm diameter. Stearn (1992, pg.111) calculated from Linnaeus's summary (1751) that a hair's width was 1/12 of a Paris line and equal to 0.18 mm (= 180 µm), which seems inordinately robust but obviously an estimate given the limited capacity for fine measurements at the time. Or perhaps that 18th century Europeans had thicker hair, which is beyond my capacity to research. The last decade has seen my own hair becoming thinner, but I will assume that is a density measure, not the actual fibres. My own thumb at 22 mm diameter also falls short of the full inch (25.4 mm), so I'm clearly not 'standard'.



Figure 1. *Asparagopsis armata*, with fronds 'twice as thick as a hog's bristle'.

The following table gives the original phrase, the reference and species of alga described, the scientific names of the source species, and then the range of quill, bristle, or hair diameters, arranged from smallest to largest. Note: For entertainment purposes only.

Table 1. A quick guide to quirky units of measurement in algae.

Unit of measure	Source	Subject (current genus)	Species (unit)	Diameter	Source
'scarcely thicker than human hair'	Turner 1809	<i>Fucus asparagoides</i> (Bonnemaisonia)	<i>Homo sapiens</i>	16–42 µm	Jiang <i>et al.</i> 2021
'twice as thick as a hog's bristle'	Harvey 1855	<i>Asparagopsis armata</i>	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	18–49 µm; 70–170 µm	Jiang <i>et al.</i> 2021; artist's brush
'thickness of a wren's quill'	Turner 1809	<i>Fucus hamulosus</i> (Hypnea)	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	0.61–0.77 mm	Feather-base
'not thicker than a pack thread'	Turner 1809	<i>Fucus forsteri</i> (Laurencia)	Probably hemp or jute	0.5–1 mm	Womersley 2003
'thickness of a sparrow's quill'	Turner 1809	<i>Fucus valentiae</i> (Hypnea)	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	0.897–1.032 mm	Zeidler 1966

'thickness of a blackbird's quill'	Turner 1809	<i>Fucus membranifolius</i> (Phyllophora)	<i>Turdus merula</i>	1.56–1.83 mm	Feather-base
'half a line wide'	Turner 1809	<i>Fucus myagroides</i> (Myagropsis)	Barley	2.25 mm	Stearn 1992
'as thick as a blackbird's or crow's quill'	Turner 1809	<i>Fucus ovalis</i> (Gastroclonium)	<i>Corvus corone</i>	3.56–4.31 mm	Jenni <i>et al.</i> 2020
'as thick as a small goose quill'	Turner 1809	<i>Fucus agarum</i> (Agarum)	<i>Anser anser</i>	3.6–5.4 mm	Feather-base
'as thick as a swan's quill'	Turner 1811	<i>Fucus cabrera</i> (Carpomitra)	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	7.79–7.85 mm	Mathiasson 1973
'that of a finger'	Turner 1809	<i>Fucus pyriforus</i> (Macrocystis)	<i>Homo sapiens</i>	16.2–20 mm	Self

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Inch the width of a human thumb, decreed by King Edward II in 1324 to be the length of three grains of barley, dry and round, placed end to end, lengthwise.

Volatile Halogen Compounds in the Alga *Asparagopsis taxiformis* (Rhodophyta)

B. Jay Burrenson, Richard E. Moore,* and Peter P. Roller

The essential oil of *Asparagopsis taxiformis*, an edible red alga in Hawaii, is composed of mainly bromine- and iodine-containing haloforms with smaller amounts of other halogenated methanes and several halogenated ethanes, ethanol, formaldehydes, acetaldehydes, acetones, 2-propanols, 2-acetoxypromanes, propenes, epoxypropanes, acroleins, and butenones.

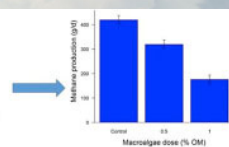
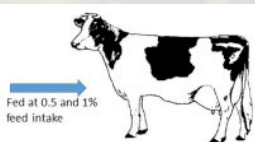
CARCINOGENICITY AND TOXICITY OF HALOCARBONS

Limu kohu (*A. taxiformis*) is the favorite edible seaweed in Hawaii. The presence of haloforms and other halogenated compounds in the essential oil suggests that limu kohu should be a poisonous seaweed to eat, but to our knowledge there has never been a single case of illness

pounds in *A. taxiformis*. Bromoform, the major constituent, has been used as a sedative. Whether limu kohu should be considered a dangerous seaweed to eat will have to await further study.



Asparagopsis armata



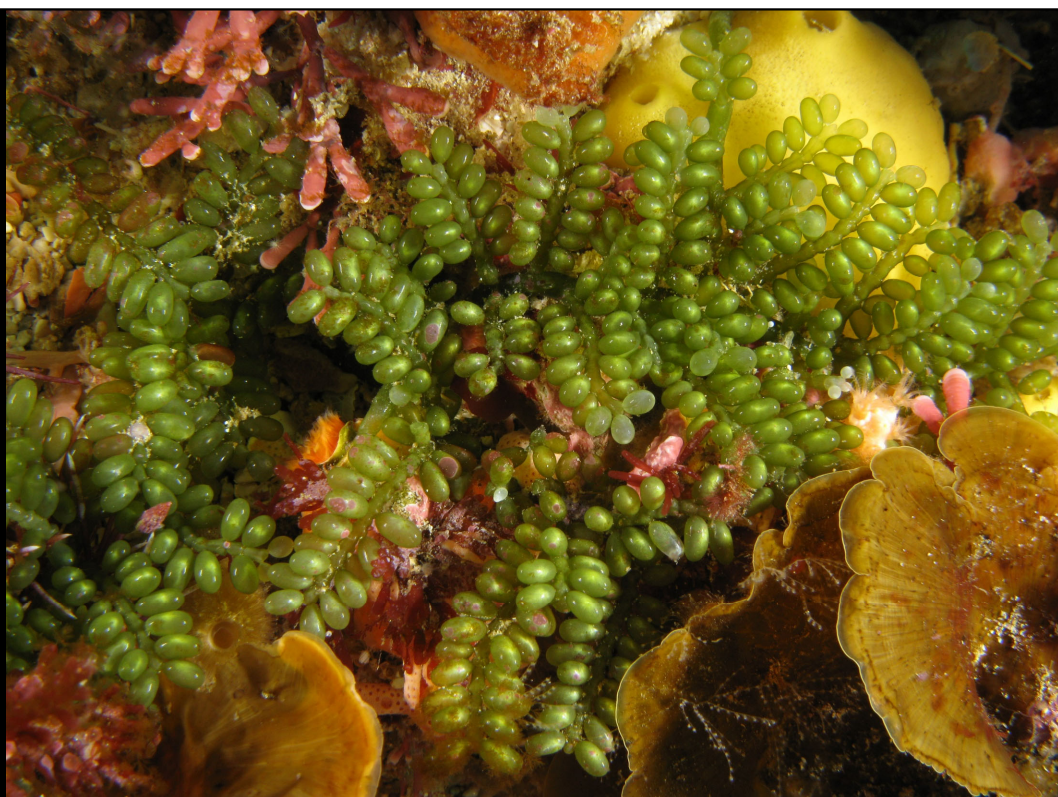
Haliseris pardalis,
now known as
Dictyopteris
australis

"a beautiful and
distinct species,
elegantly marked in
dotted lines like a
leopard's skin"



Asparagopsis armata, currently the topic of much research

Caulerpa geminata,
currently a
synonym of
C. sedoides, a
Turner species



Halymenia
kallymenioides, now
in *Cryptonemia*

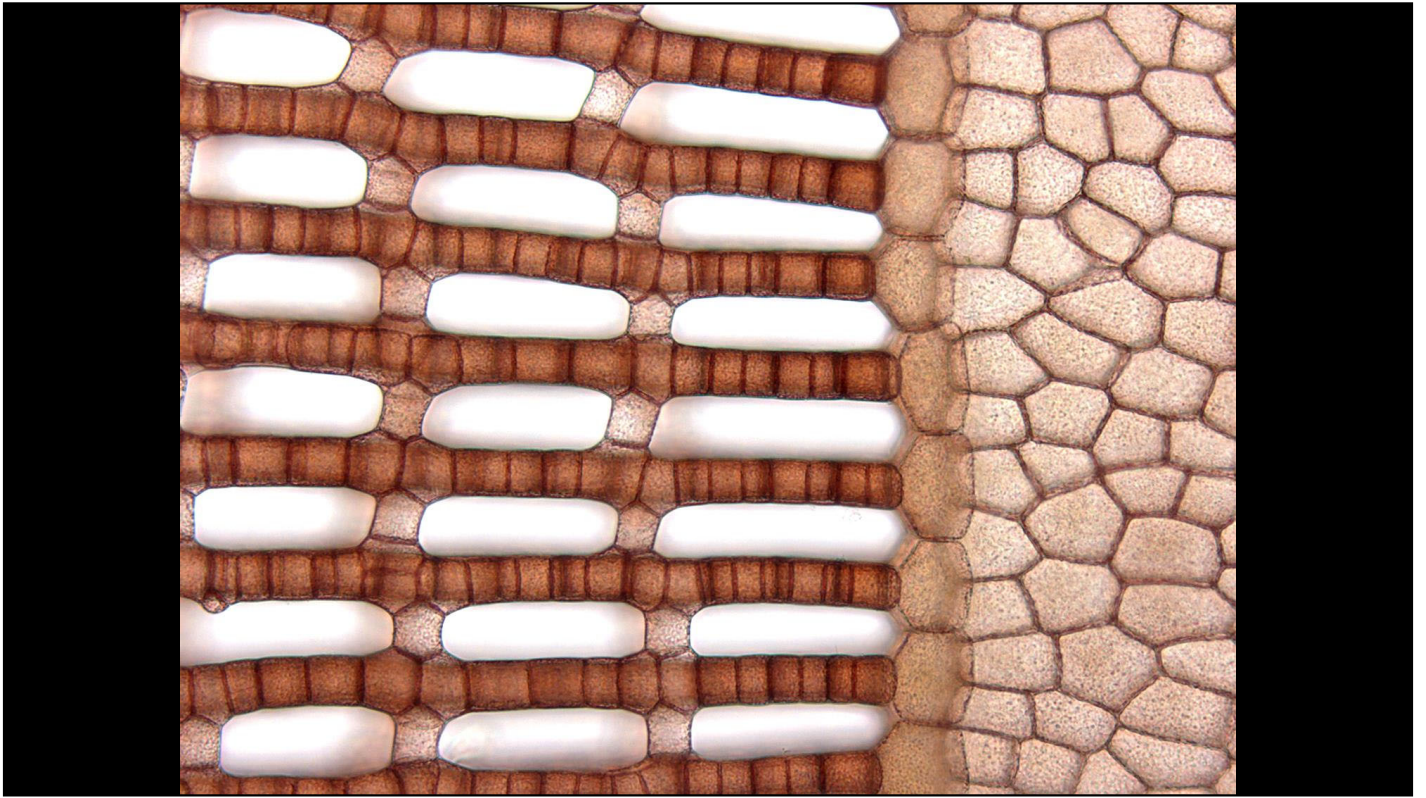


Horea
halymenioides, now
in *Gloioderma*



*Martensia
denticulata*

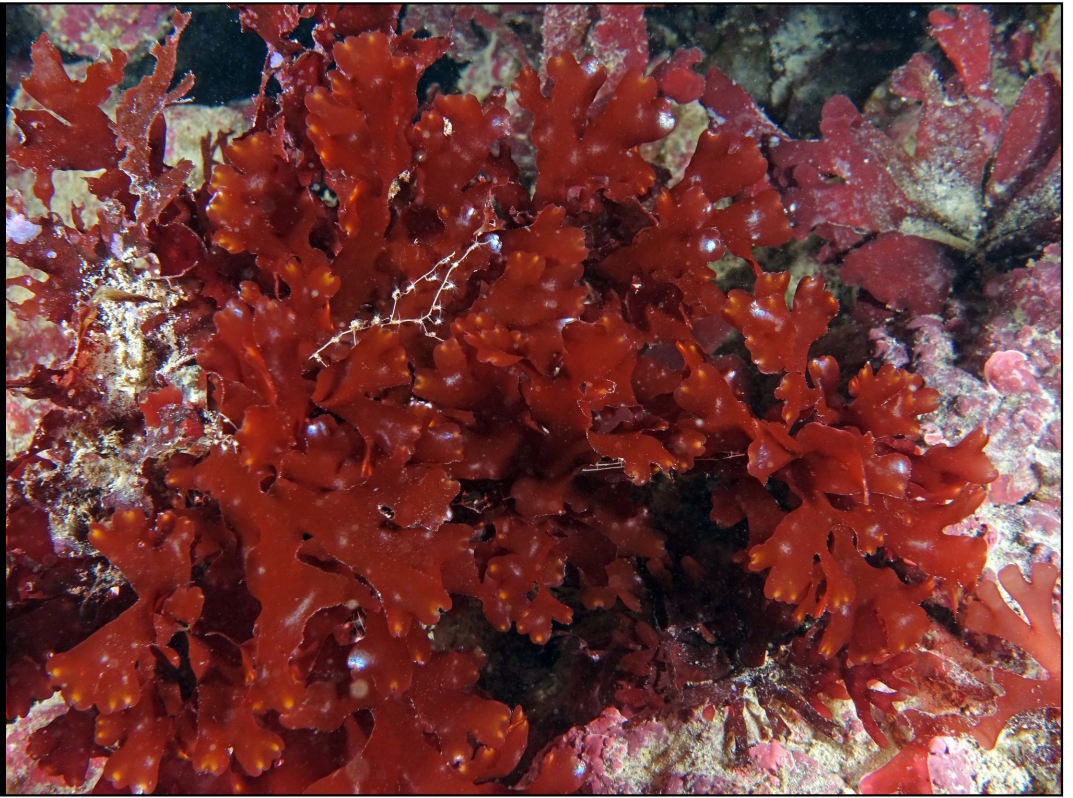




Kallymenia cribrosa,
now in *Leiomenia*
"A very remarkable
species, elegantly
perforated, like an
Agarum"



*Hennedya
crispa*,
A new genus and
species



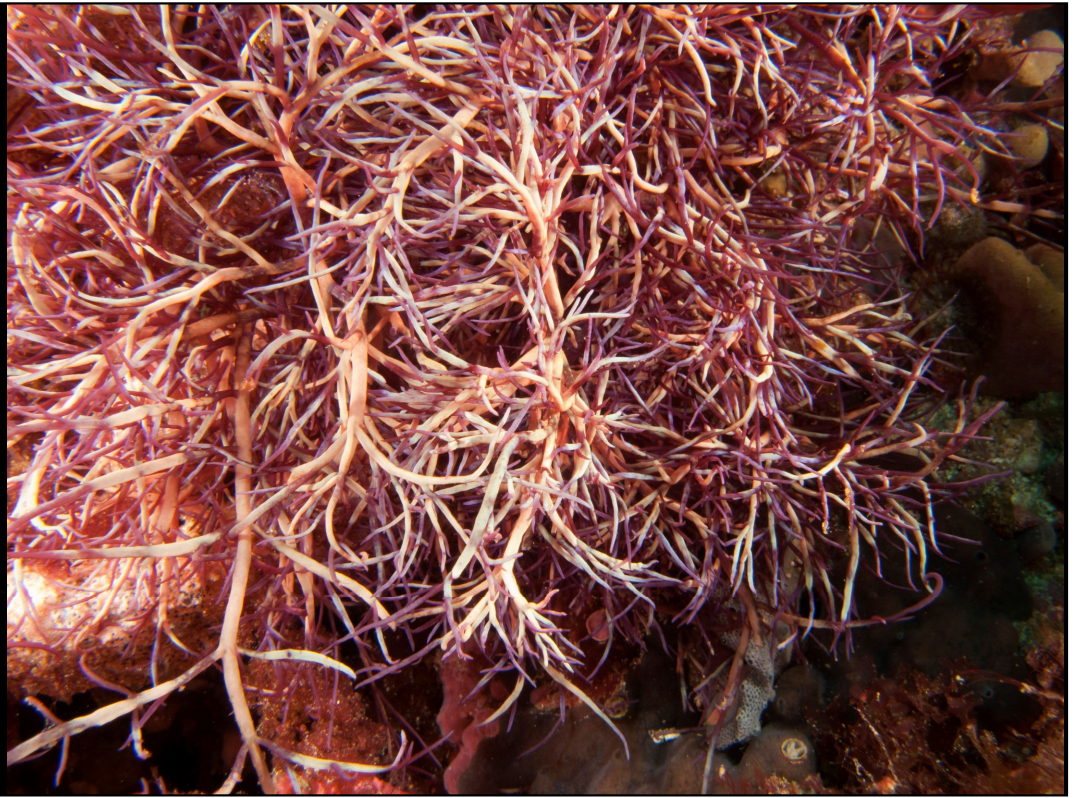
Griffithsia monilis
"resembles beautiful
strings of ruby-
coloured beads"



Cruoria australis,
now in *Rhodopeltis*,
originally thought to
be a 'parasite' on
Amphiroa australis



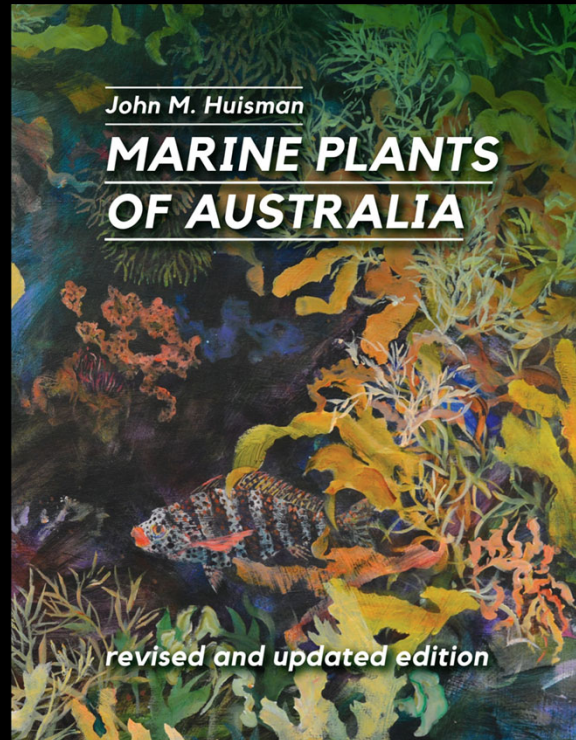
*Sarcomenia
hypneoides*,
now in
Platysiphonia
"gray and
iridescent when
living, but turn a
brilliant rosy red
after a few
minutes' exposure
to the air"



*Penicillus
nodulosus*
Recorded by
Harvey as *P.*
arbuscula?, noting
"abundant on
shallow, sand
covered reefs at
Rottnest". Not seen
at Rottnest since,
the most southern
off Cervantes (c.
200 km north)



Shameless plug!
Over 640 species
illustrated



Five
volumes
1858-63

300 spp

PHYCOLOGIA AUSTRALICA;

or,

A History of Australian Seaweeds;

comprising

coloured figures and descriptions of the more characteristic

Member of the Royal Irish Academy, fellow of the Linnean Society, Cor. Mem. of the Royal Academies of Upsal and Munich; of the Imp. Acad. Leop. Caesar. Nat. Curiosorum; Hon. Mem. of the Lyceum of Nat. Hist., New York, etc. etc. etc.

and

Professor of Botany in the University of Dublin

WILLIAM THOMAS HARVEY, M.D., F.R.S.

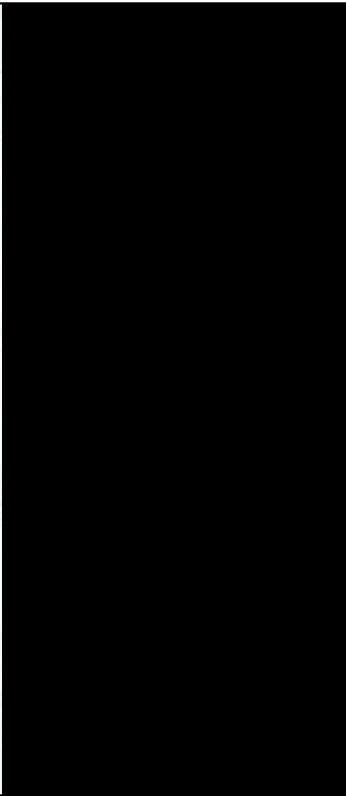
Member of the Royal Irish Academy, fellow of the Linnean Society, Cor. Mem. of the Royal Academies of Upsal and Munich; of the Imp. Acad. Leop. Caesar. Nat. Curiosorum; Hon. Mem. of the Lyceum of Nat. Hist., New York, etc. etc. etc.

and

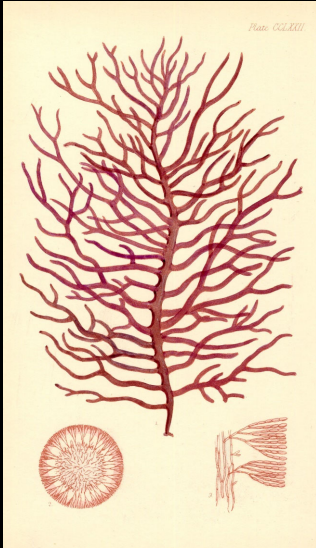
Professor of Botany in the University of Dublin

On his return to Dublin Harvey embarked on his most significant contribution, *Phycologia Australica*, with 300 species of Australian seaweeds illustrated with beautiful colour plates. You can see here Harvey's qualifications....

Claudea elegans,
from Harvey's
'Phycologia
Australica'

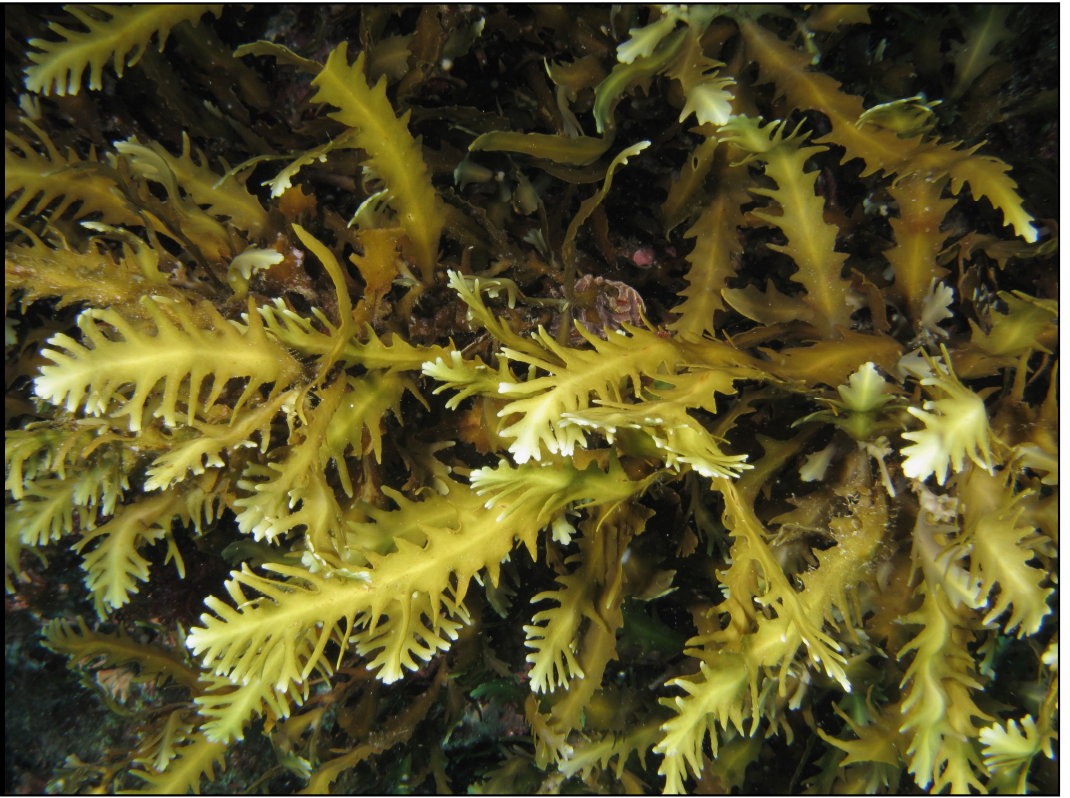


*Helminthocladia
australis*



Harvey continued to describe new species, this is *Helminthocladia australis*.

*Platythalia
quercifolia*



Other examples: *Platythalia quercifolia*.

*Caulerpa
scalpelliformis*

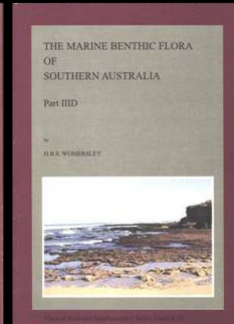
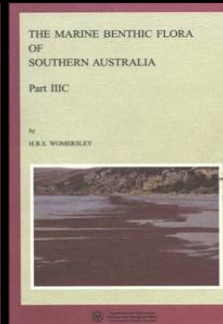
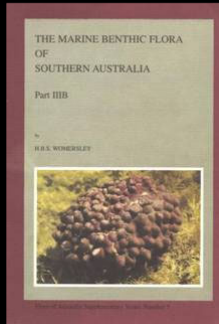
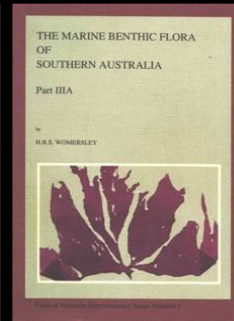
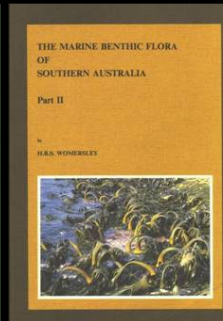
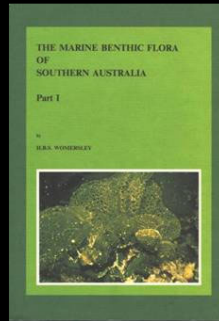


Other examples: *Platythalia quercifolia*.



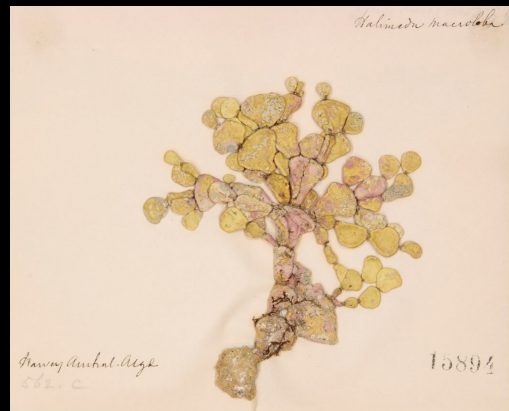
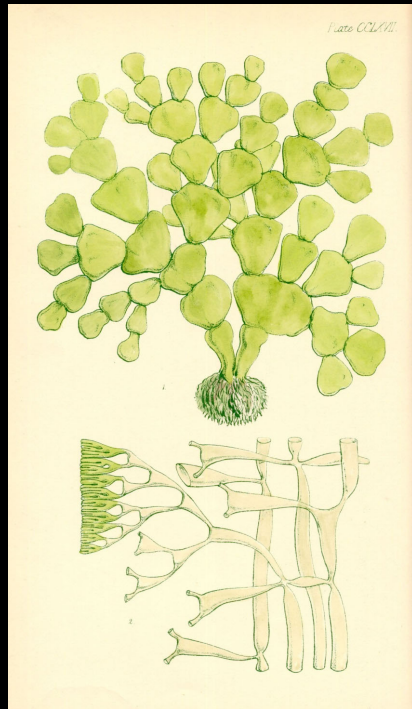
H.B.S (Bryan) Womersley
(1922-2011)

Six volumes 1984-2003
1137 spp.



No





From Harvey's 'Phycologia
Australica'

Distributed as *Halimeda
macroloba*, but subsequently
placed in *H. cuneata*, a South
African species

Harvey distributed numerous sets of specimens as his *Algae Australicae Exsiccatae*.

Halimeda cuneata (or is it?)



Australian species placed by Womersley in *Halimeda cuneata*, a South African species

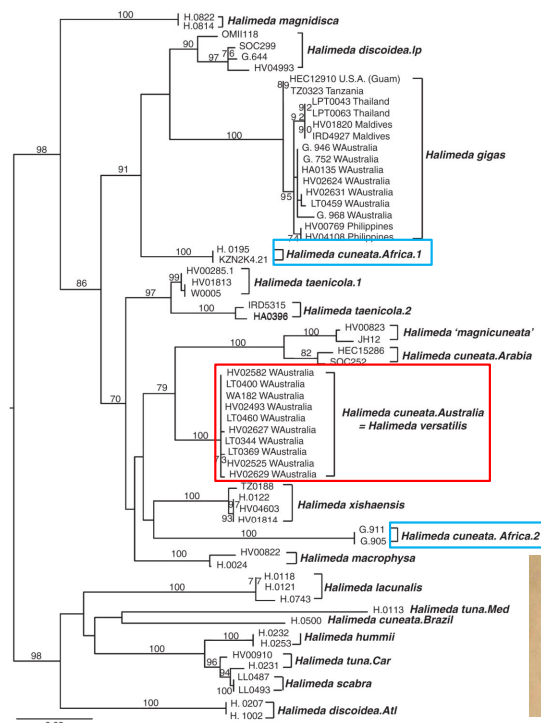


Fig. 1. RAxML phylogenetic tree inferred from *mtA* sequences of 63 *Halimeda* specimens. Bootstrap proportions exceeding 70% are indicated at branches.

J. Agardh (1887) described *Halimeda versatilis* based on a Harvey specimen

11. *H. VERSATILIS* (*J. Ag. descr.*) glauco-virescens, conspicue incrustata, supra radicem validum stipite brevi incrassato sursum dilatato surgens, flabellatum ramosum, articulis cuneatis, margine superiore rotundato integerrimo, inferiore supra petiolum brevissimum teretiusculum subtruncato, diametro transversali longitudinalem vix aequante, saepius evidenter brevior.

Halim. macroloba Harr. *Phycol. Austr. tab. CCLXVII.* (exclus. synonym.) *eximie!*

Alg. Austr. esp. no 562 c.

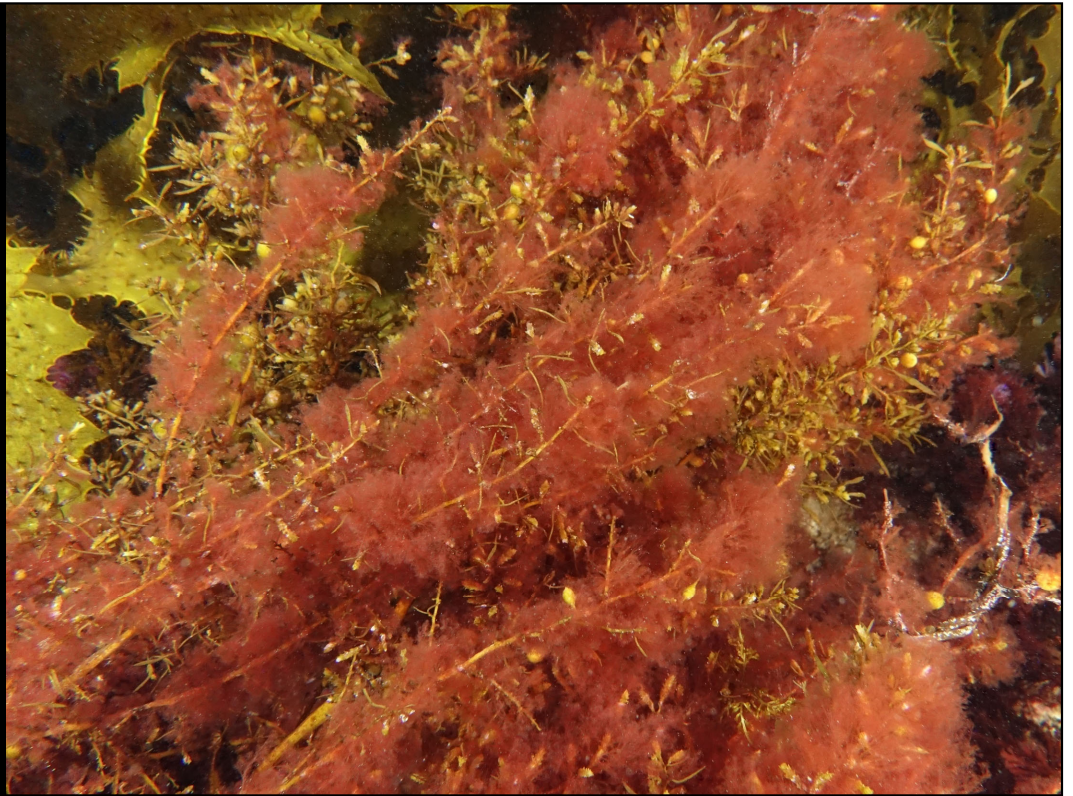
LIST OF DR. HARVEY'S DUPLICATE AUSTRALIAN ALGÆ.

NOTE.—The specimens distributed are all numbered and lettered. The numbers refer to the names given in the subjoined list of species; and the letters to the habitats, indicated by the letters, are as follows:—A refers to the neighbourhood of Fremantle, Western Australia. B, King George's Sound. C, Cape Riche, Western Australia. D, Port Fairy, Victoria. E, Port Phillip Heads, Victoria. F, Brighton beach, Port Phillip. G, Geelong, Port Phillip. H, Western Port, Victoria. J, Georgetown, Van Diemen's Land. K, Port Arthur, Van Diemen's Land. L, Port Jackson, New South Wales. M, Newcastle, New South Wales. N, Kiama, New South Wales. O, Auckland, New Zealand.

Except molecular analysis shows it to be separate to the South African species. J. Agardh in 1887 described the new species based on Harvey specimen from Cape Riche

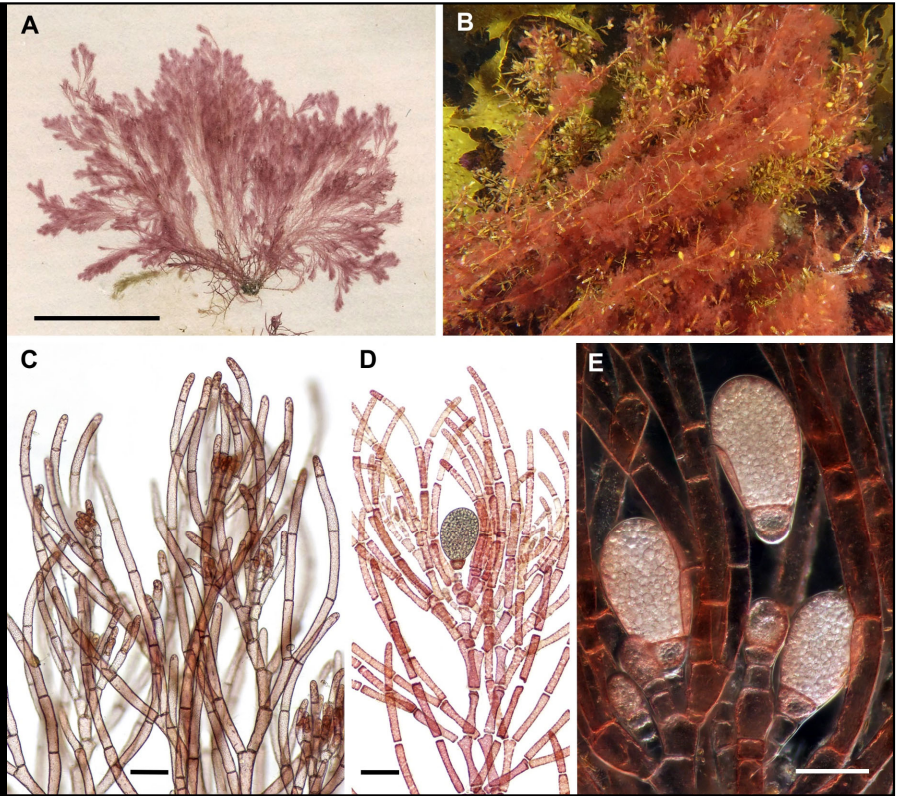
Harvey described 22 species of *Callithamnion* and 2 species of *Corynospora*, but several have remained poorly known and, as noted by Womersley (1996: 233), "must remain doubtful".

Corynospora gracilis



Now to a subject dear to me, the 'fuzzy red algae'. We have embarked on a study to finally, after nearly 170 years, try and give these species a home.

Recent collections from Cape Peron, just south of the Garden Island type locality match Harvey's collections. Unfortunately, they are not sexually reproductive, but have distinctive two-celled propagules, pointing to the genus *Guiryella*

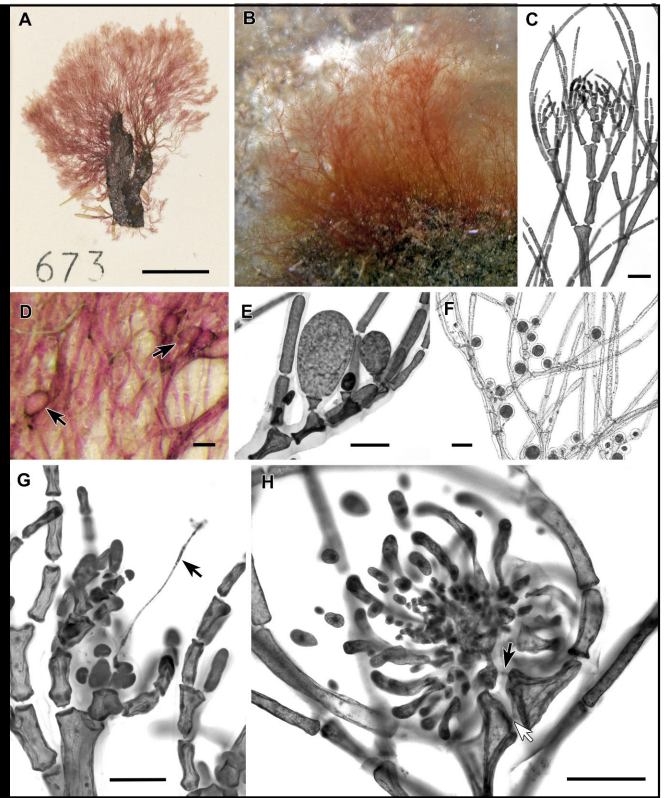


A major problem is that many Harvey specimens in this group are sterile and cannot be easily characterised. Plus we have limited access to type material, so there has been some detective work. Harvey specimens in Dublin are not available for loan, but other herbaria hold duplicates.

*Corynospora
australis*, common
at Nornalup
Estuary on the
south coast of
Western
Australia



Corynospora australis is currently included in *Mazoyerella*, after being placed in *Monosporus* and *Neomonospora*. Collections from Nornalup match Harvey's collections. And are sexually reproductive, pointing to *Desikacharyella*.



Is it actually different to *Corynospora gracilis*. Thankfully a Harvey specimen in MEL has propagules. Has a secondary pit connection forming between the lower end of the involucre filament arising from the hypogenous cell and the subhypogenous cell

Then things get a
little more
complicated...

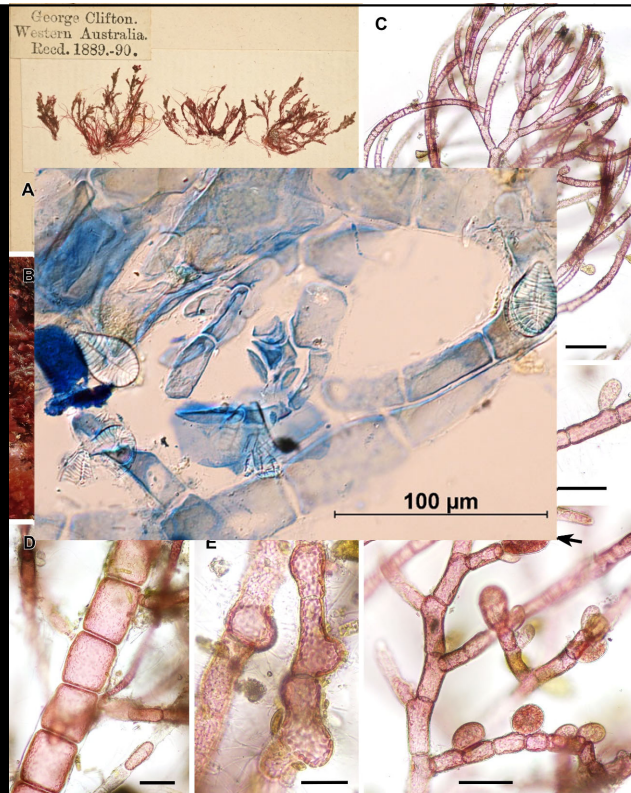
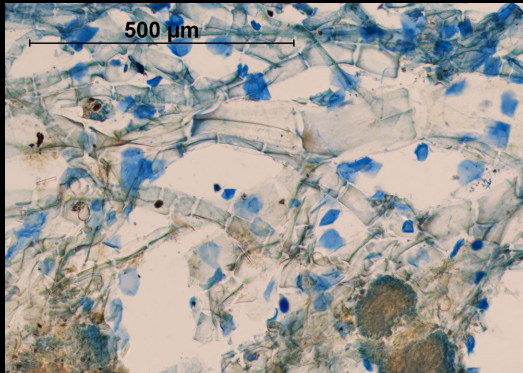


Specimens can be of limited value, so we need to take in all information and make a call

*Callithamnion
crispulum*, on
shaded rock at
Cape Peron, south
of Perth

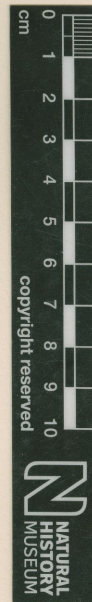


*Callithamnion
crispulum*, recent
collections with
tetrasporangia and
octosporangia.



Slide material prepared by Bryan Womersley in the South Australian Herbarium. Tetrahedral tetrasporangia, becoming octosporangia

Callithamnion
scopula, from
"crevices of rocks,
at half-tide,
Rottnest"



531. *CALLITHAMNION scopula*, n. sp.

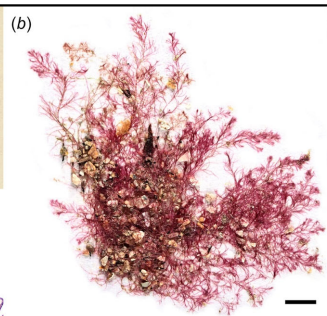
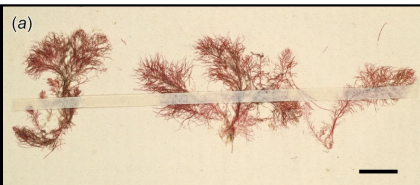
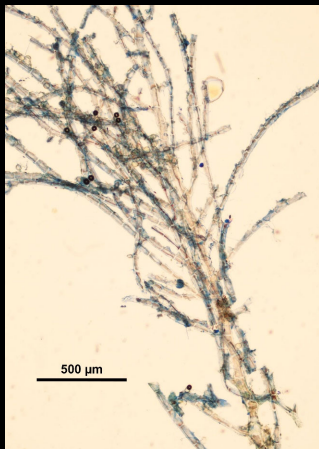
N. Holland, Fremantle, W. Australia.

Dr. Harvey, list, No. 531 A.

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Spongoecolium scopula De Toni

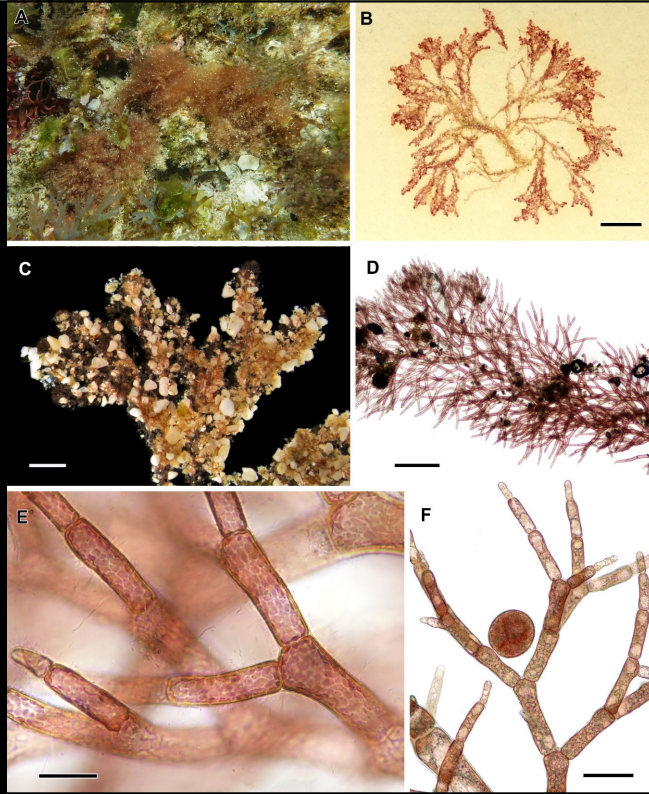
Callithamnion
scopula, recent
collections.



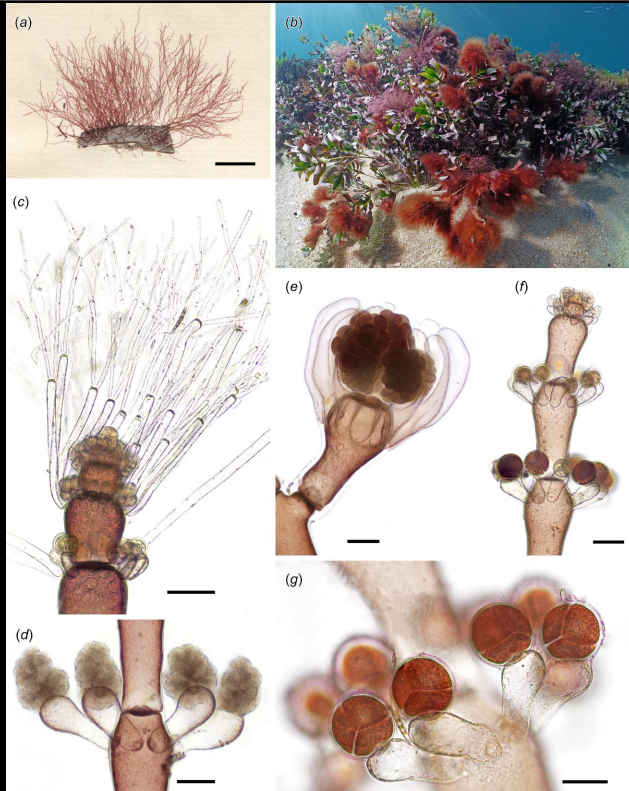
*Callithamnion
multifidum*, on
exposed sand-
covered rock at
Cape Peron, south
of Perth.



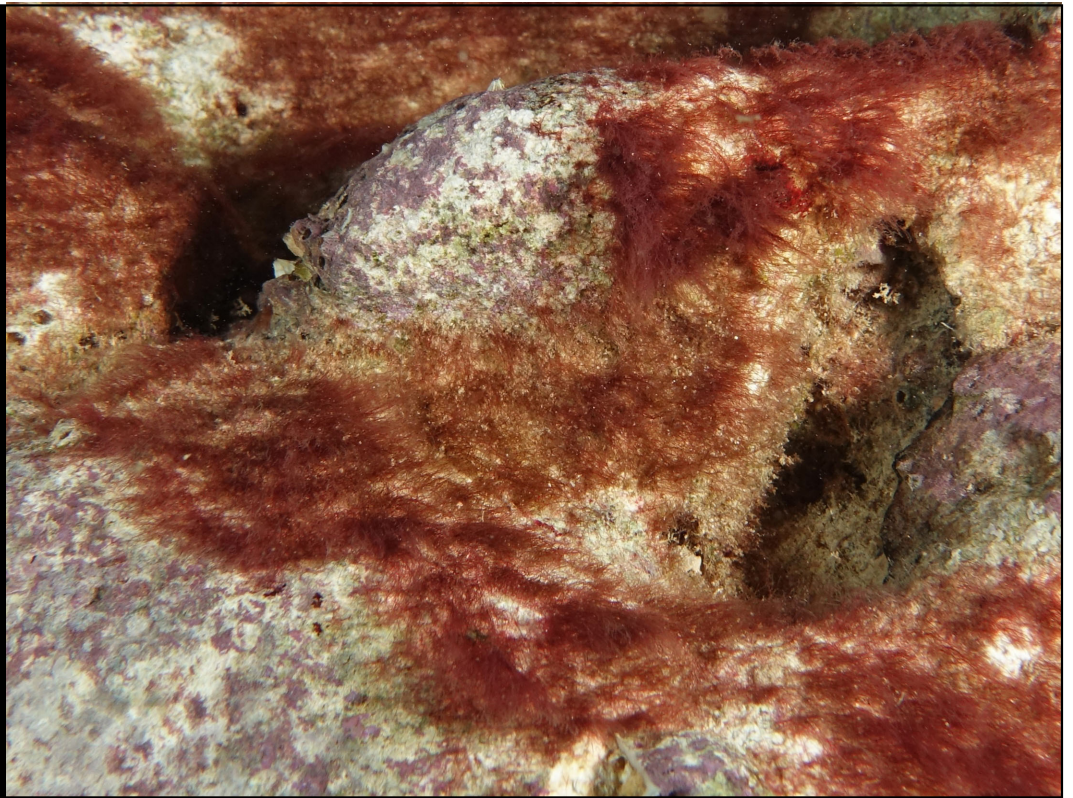
Callithamnion multifidum, very distinctive as it accumulates sand grains. Harvey (1855) noted "generally buried in the sand, the grains of which adhere closely to the filaments".



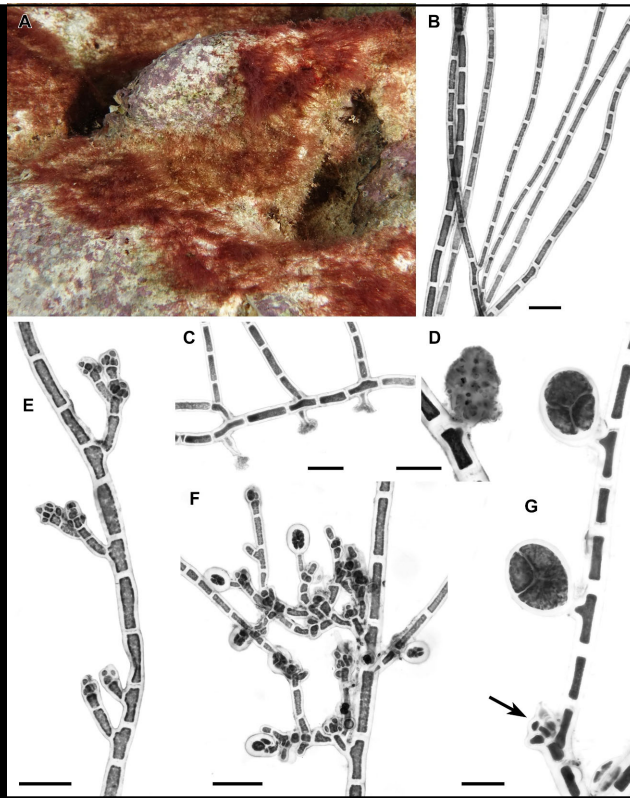
*Anotrichium
thyrsigerum*,
previously not
recognised as a
distinct species



But not
everything can
be a Harvey
species.



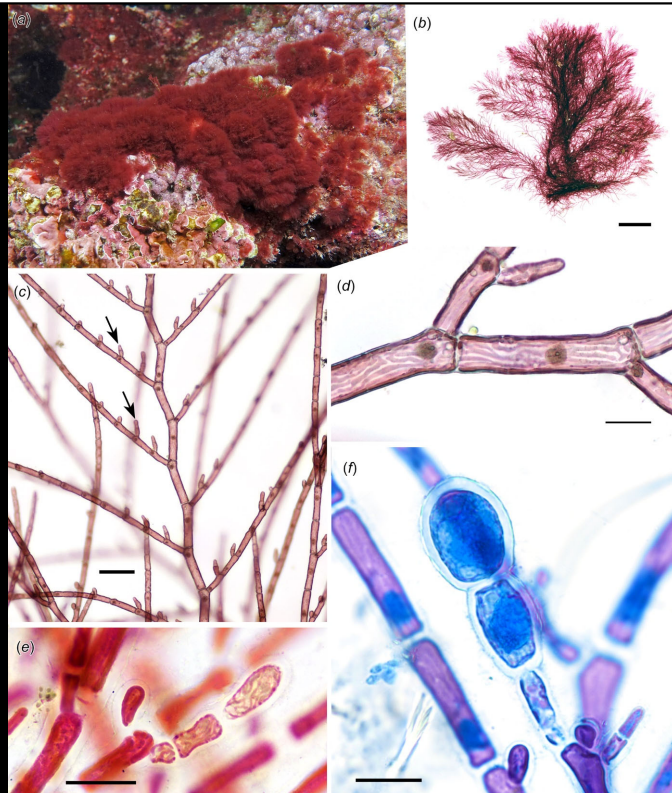
An unusual
species, possibly a
Ptilothamnion,
with female, male
and tetrasporangia
on the same
thallus.

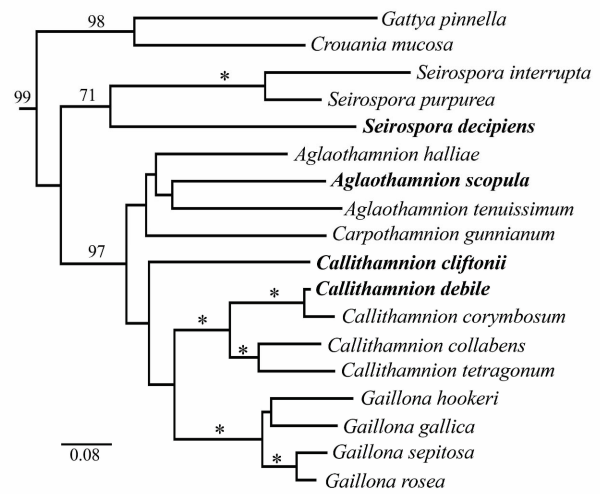
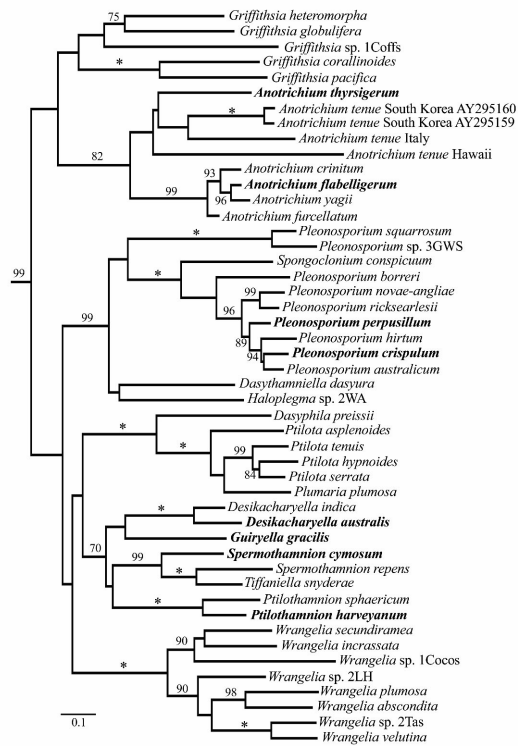


*Seirospora
decipiens*, on
shaded rock at
Cape Peron, south
of Perth

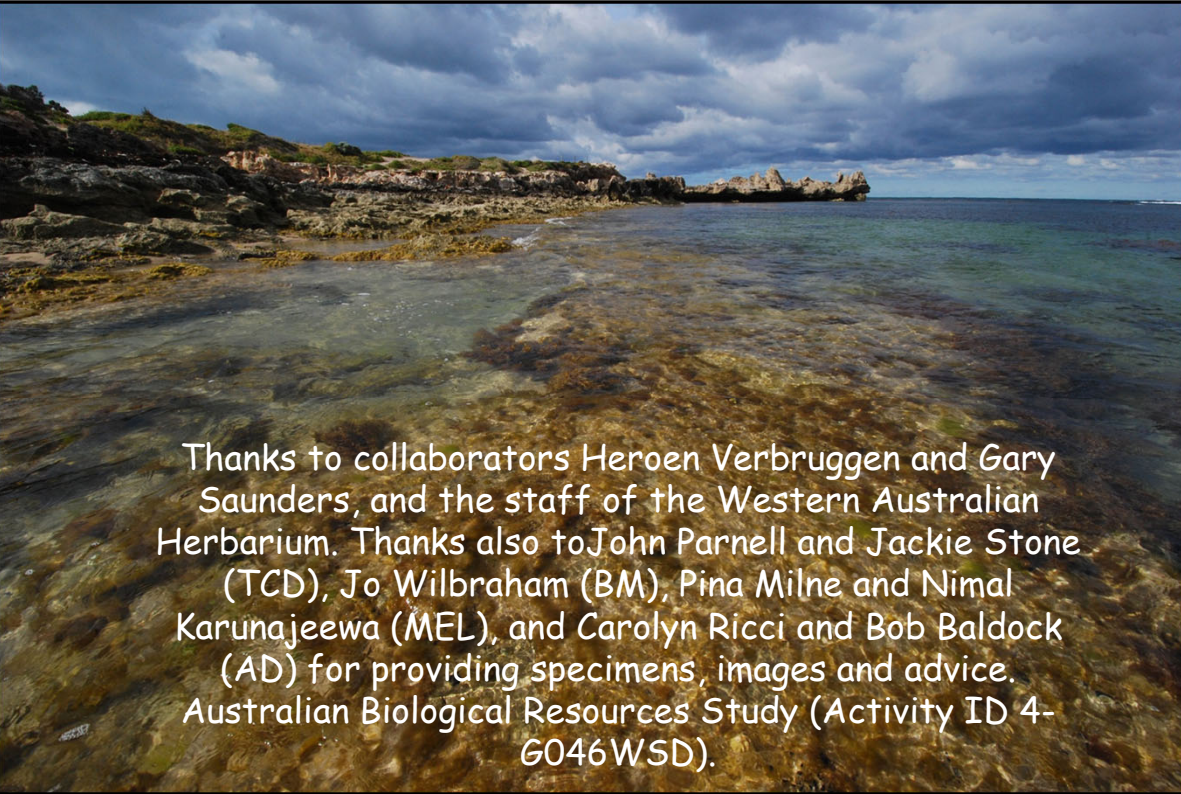


*Seirospora
decipiens*, never
found reproductive





Harvey species	Current name (if different)	Final placement
<i>Corynospora australis</i>	<i>Mazoyerella australis</i>	<i>Desikacharyella australis</i>
<i>Corynospora gracilis</i>	<i>Anotrichium gracile</i>	<i>Guiryella gracilis</i>
<i>Callithamnion scopula</i>	<i>Spongoclonium scopula</i>	<i>Aglaothamnion scopula</i>
<i>Callithamnion crispulum</i>		<i>Pleonosporium crispulum</i>
<i>Callithamnion pusillum</i>	<i>Callithamnion perpusillum</i>	<i>Pleonosporium perpusillum</i>
<i>Callithamnion multifidum</i>	<i>nom. illeg.</i>	<i>Callithamnion cliftonii</i>
<i>Callithamnion debile</i>	<i>Spongoclonium debile</i>	<i>Callithamnion debile</i>
<i>Callithamnion flabelligerum</i>	Taxonomic synonym of <i>Anotrichium licmophorum</i>	<i>Anotrichium flabelligerum</i>
<i>Callithamnion thysigerum</i>	<i>Anotrichium tenue</i> var. <i>thysigerum</i>	<i>Anotrichium thysigerum</i>
<i>Callithamnion cymosum</i>	<i>Spermothamnion cymosum</i>	<i>Spermothamnion cymosum</i>



Thanks to collaborators Heroen Verbruggen and Gary Saunders, and the staff of the Western Australian Herbarium. Thanks also to John Parnell and Jackie Stone (TCD), Jo Wilbraham (BM), Pina Milne and Nimal Karunajeewa (MEL), and Carolyn Ricci and Bob Baldock (AD) for providing specimens, images and advice. Australian Biological Resources Study (Activity ID 4-G046WSD).

And of
course...W.H.Harvey
(1811-1866).

In his lifetime he
described over 800
species and 75
genera of algae.

