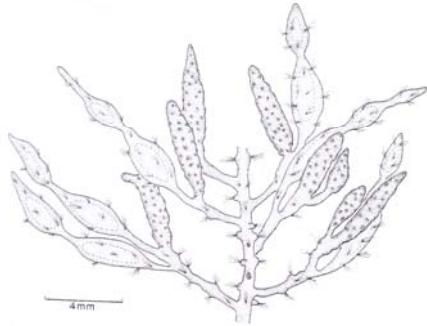


Cystoseira trinodis



Cystoseira trinodis – drawing from Wormersley 1987.

FAMILY: CYSTOSEIRACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Cystoseira trinodis*, (Forsskal) C. Agardh.

COMMON NAME: Brown alga

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

The alga's main stripes arising from a holdfast are between 1-4 cm long. The stripes bear a few to numerous primary branches (between 20-50 cm long) which are usually formed and lost seasonally. Branchlets are borne on the primary branches. These bear air bladders, egg-holding structures and male gametes. In summer the plant sends up fertile fronds, which float on top of the water at low tide and are easily visible. In late summer these disappear, leaving the basal holdfast (description from Sanderson 2000).

Distribution and Habitat

This species has a wide spread distribution and is found in northern Australia and the Indian ocean tropics and subtropics. The southern most location of *Cystoseira trinodis* was Victor Harbour in South Australia, however it is now known from Blackman Bay in Tasmania. This species inhabits water between 0.5 and 1.5 m depth in very sheltered parts of the bay. Important populations are located near sand/reef interfaces. In South Australia this species is often located in reef rock pools (Sanderson 2000, Wormersley 1987).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include south of the Blackman Bay boat ramp, the northern end of Boomer Bay, Bangor Point and the entrance of Dunalley canal inside Blackman Bay. Many isolated individuals were discovered throughout Blackman Bay (Sanderson 2000)

Known Reserves

This species is not currently known from any marine reserve.

Ecology and Management

A management plan was prepared for the Blackman Bay area, taking effect on 14th October 2001. Sanderson (2000) states that it is difficult to determine if the alga has been introduced or represents a relict population. If this species was introduced, it is likely to have been some time ago due to the wide distribution of the species in the bay and there were not many suitable areas for the alga that were not inhabited (Sanderson 2000).

Recommendations put forward by Sanderson (2000) include that oyster farming should be located away from significant populations of *Cystoseira trinodis*.

Conservation Status Assessment

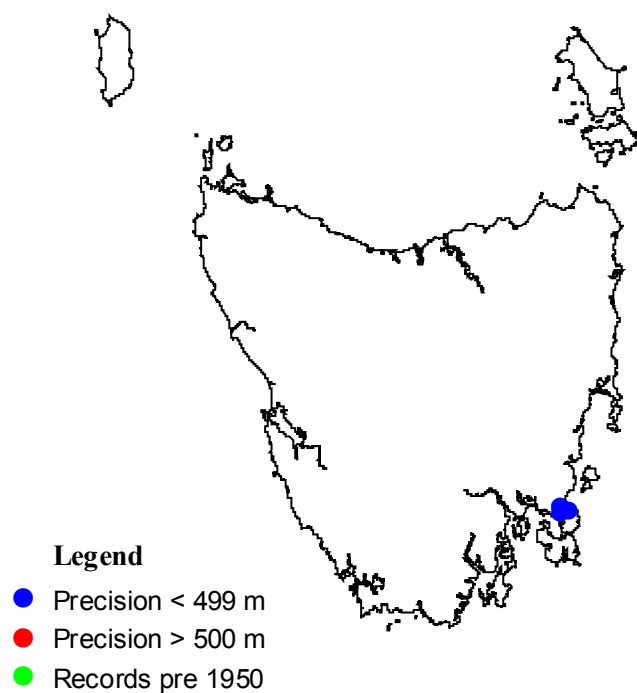
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Cystoseira trinodis*.

Further Information

- Sanderson C 2000, *Assessment of the Distribution of the Alga Cystoseira trinodis (Forsskal) C. Agardh in Blackman Bay*, unpublished report to the Threatened Species Unit, Department of Primary Industries, Water & Environment, Hobart.
- Wormersely, HBS 1987, *The Marine Benthic Flora of Southern Australia*, Part II, South Australian Government Printer, Adelaide.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, August 2002)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Dunalley.

Date last modified: 18/06/02