

Codium taylorii P.C. Silva**Misidentifications**

Codium coralloides (Kützinger) Silva
Codium dichotomum (Hudson) S.F. Gray
Codium decorticatum (Woodward)
 M.A. Howe

a. Habit. b. Dried specimens.
 c-d. Utricles.
 Bars: b = 1 cm; c-d = 100 µm.



Photos a. G. Blitar and b. S. Ruliton (Mediterranean, Lebanon). Drawings: Silva, 1960 (Tropical W Atlantic), with the permission from E. Schweizerbart Science Publishers.

Short description

Medium (to 15 cm high), erect, divaricately subdichotomously branched, appearing often irregular, cervicorne; dark green; branches usually flattened throughout or at least at the dichotomies, 3 – 8 (-25) mm broad, apices obtuse; spongy; coenocytic; medulla of slender, branched, interwoven filaments; cortex of swollen utricles, cylindrical to clavate, 550 – 1150 (-1450) µm long and 110 – 260 (-380) µm in diameter, with apex rounded or subtruncate without mucro; utricular wall moderately thickened at apices (to 20 µm thick).

Distinguishing characteristics

The branching divaricate, often cervicorne, in which the branches are flattened throughout or at least at the dichotomies and the utricles without mucro are distinctive; confusion possible with:

- *C. decorticatum* (Woodward) M.A. Howe: larger size (> 50 cm), thallus regularly dichotomous, strongly flattened at the dichotomies, and utricles larger, to 1750 (-2000) µm long and to 500 (-850) µm in diameter;
- *C. fragile* (Suringar) Hariot: utricles with mucro;
- *C. parvulum* (Bory ex Audouin) P.C.Silva: thallus prostrate and intricate, branching divaricately dichotomous, and branches small, cylindrical, with frequent anastomoses;
- *C. tomentosum* Stackhouse and *C. vermilara* (Olivi) Chiaje: thallus cylindrical throughout.

Biology / Ecology / Habitat

Subtidal communities, present all year round.

Distribution

Worldwide: western Atlantic, described from Florida, USA (Silva, 1960), North Carolina to Uruguay; eastern atlantic, Azores, Canary Islands, Madeira, Salvage Islands, Mauritania, Cap Verde, Ghana, St. Helena; Indian Ocean, Oman, India, Seychelles, Thailand. **Mediterranean:** recorded first in 1955 from Israel (Rayss, 1955, as *C. dichotomum*; Silva, 1960); successively recorded in Libya (Nizamuddin, 1991, as *C. coralloides*); Egypt, Alexandria (Aleem, 1993); Syria (Mayhoub, 1976a, as *C. decorticutum*); Lebanon (Bitar *et al.*, 2007); the record from Algeria (Gallardo *et al.*, 1993 from Perret-Boudouresque and Seridi, 1989) is a misidentification.

Mode of introduction

Shipping; accidental introduction via aquaculture activities.

Establishment

Well established.

Importance to humans

None.



1st Mediterranean record
Israel, 1955 [no collecting date].

Key references

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- Rayss T., 1955. Les algues marines des Côtes Palestiniennes. I. Chlorophyceae. *Sea Fisheries Research Station Bulletin*, 9: 1-36.
- Silva P. C., 1960. *Codium* (Chlorophyta) of the tropical western Atlantic. *Nova Hedwigia*, 1: 497-536.