Red Algae

Antithamnionella spirographidis

D

Pathway

- Hull fouling
- Litter
- Aquaculture

Impacts

Biodiversity

May cause fouling in marinas and harbours, but effects considered to be negligible due to their small size. Well dispersed across the globe but with an unknown impact on the environment.

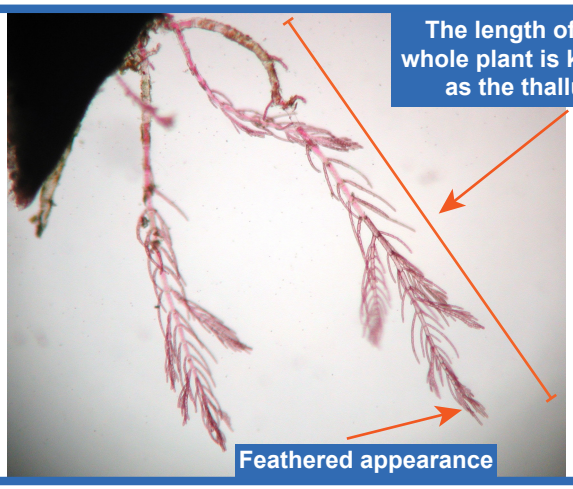
Human Health

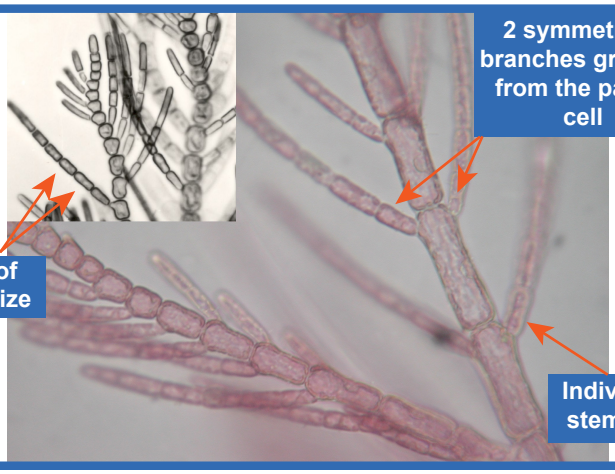
None known.

Economy

None known.

Key ID Features





Description

The algae have a primary stalk which consists of individual segments that are cells. Each cell bears 2 branches that are positioned symmetrically on the parent cell. These branches can also grow branches, giving the algae a feathered appearance.

Size

Maximum length of the thallus is 15 cm.

Colour

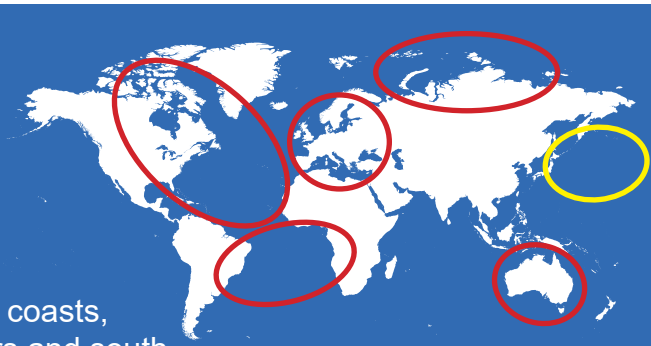
Red to brown.

*Note: Images not to scale

Distribution

Native range: Most likely to originate from the North Pacific, specifically Northwest or North-Central Pacific, although some sources believe it could also be native to South Pacific warm waters.

Non-native range: The Mediterranean, European coasts, and Australia. North Atlantic in both cold and warm waters and south Atlantic warm waters.



Red Algae

Antithamnionella spirographidis

D

Habitat and Ecology

Habitat: This alga is found on hard substrates such as cobbles, boulders and maerl beds. It has also been found growing on dense patches of seaweed such as green sea fingers.

Reproduction: Fast asexual reproduction.

Confusion with similar species

Similar to *Antithamnionella ternifolia* (see below) but a hand lens shows that in *A. spirographidis* the branching is paired rather than in rings of four. *A. ternifolia* has significantly shorter basal cells.

If you think you have seen this species, please contact the person below who will confirm its identity.

Please also refer to the mitigation strategies guidance document, provided as part of the Marine Biosecurity Toolkit.

Further Information

- http://www.flora.sa.gov.au/efsa/Marine_Benthic_Flora_SA/Part_IIIC/Antithamnionella_spirographidis.shtml
- http://archive.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1672
- Verlaque, M., Boudouresque, C.F. and Mineur, F., 2007, February. Oyster transfers as a vector for marine species introductions: a realistic approach based on the macrophytes. In CIESM Workshop Monographs, Monaco (Vol. 32, pp. 39-48).

Images

Front: Top and Bottom © Francis Bunker and Christine Maggs
Reverse: © Christine Maggs

NNSS GB non-native species secretariat
JNCC
Marine Management Organisation
Funded by UK Government