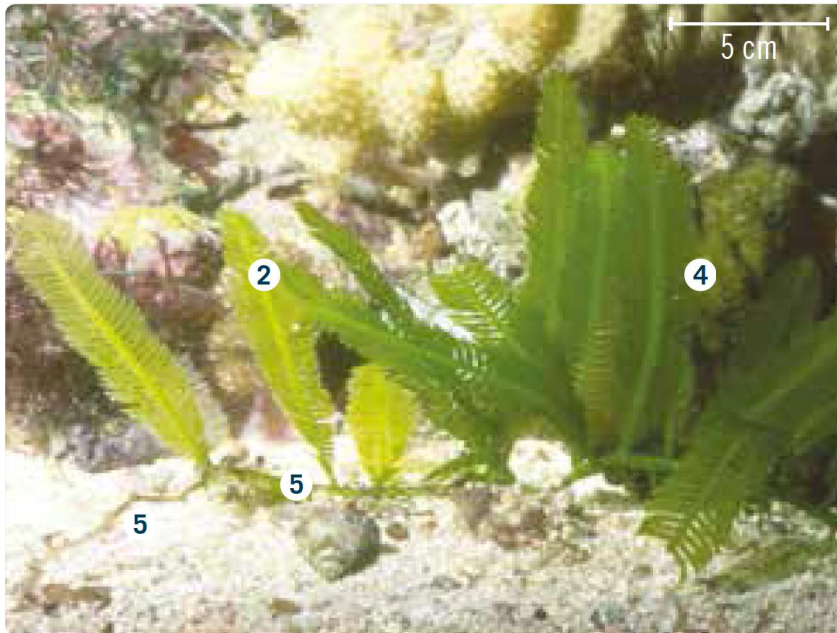


AQUARIUM CAULERPA

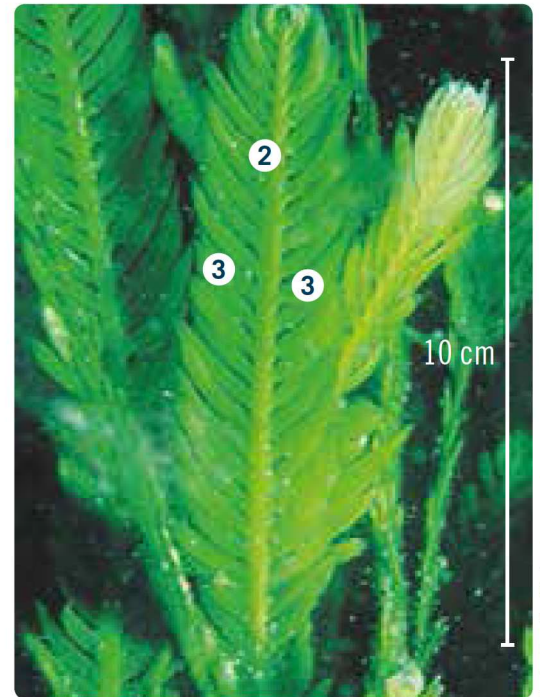
Caulerpa taxifolia

Key features

- 1 Bright green
- 2 Fronds have a smooth midrib
- 3 Paired branchlets, all flattened in the same plane



- 4 Fronds up to 15 cm (tropical form) or 40+ cm (Mediterranean form) in length
- 5 Long horizontal runners (stolons) with many upright, flattened fronds



Australian Institute of Marine Science



Government of South Australia, Biosecurity SA

Habitat

- Marine aquaria

If *Caulerpa* was to be released into the environment, then it would be found in:

- Sand, mud, rock or seagrass beds
- Estuaries, harbours and coasts
- Sheltered to semi-exposed environments
- Low tide to 100 m depth

Impact

- Forms vast, dense beds
- Smothers and displaces native and fisheries species
- Fast-growing
- Disrupts natural ecological balance
- Accumulates toxins



'If found anywhere in New Zealand, immediately call

0800 80 99 66

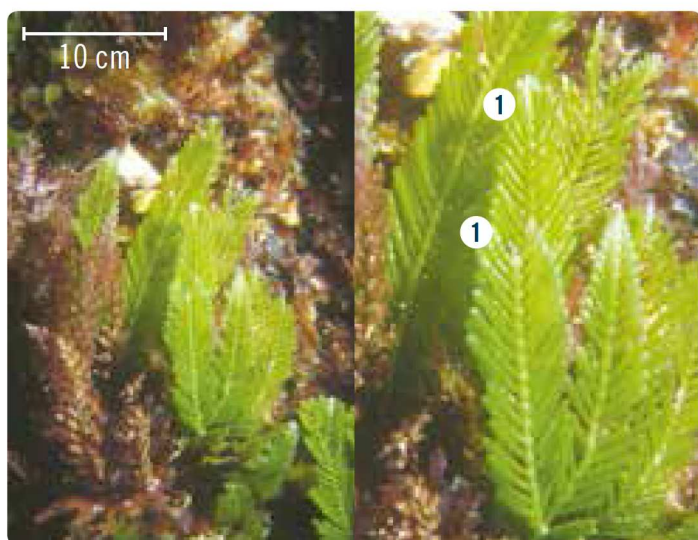
NATIVE SPECIES THAT LOOK SIMILAR



Bob Fenner

How to differentiate *Caulerpa taxifolia* from:

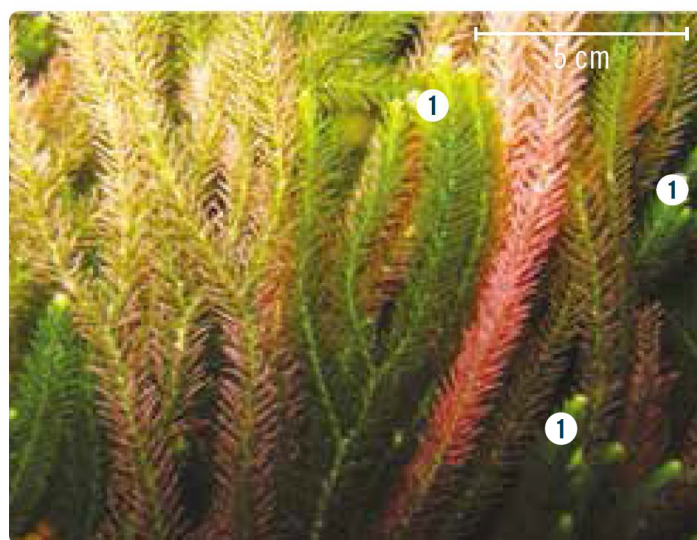
Caulerpa articulata



J.M. Huismann

- 1 *C. articulata* has cylindrical, turgid, bead-like vesicles that are not flattened like *C. taxifolia*
- 2 *C. articulata* is found in the North Island and offshore islands, and the northern South Island

Caulerpa brownii SEA RIMU



Richard Kinsey

- 1 *C. brownii* has distinctively three-dimensional shaggy fronds; they are not flattened in cross-section
- 2 *C. brownii* is found in the southern North Island, South Island and offshore islands

Additional information: the most likely way of *Caulerpa taxifolia* arriving in New Zealand is through importation with other aquarium species. Aquarium caulerpa is an unwanted organism, so if you suspect you've seen it in aquaria, or anywhere, please call **0800 80 99 66** immediately.

To report suspected marine pests or diseases call
0800 80 99 66