
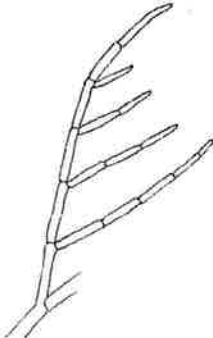
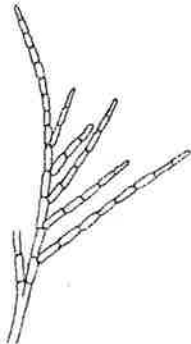


	MORPHOLOGY	DIAMETER OF APICAL CELL (μm)	HABITAT	DISTRIBUTION IN GEOGRAPHICAL AREA
Spongy Green Branched Weed <i>Cladophora albida</i>	Green to dark green, to 15 cm high, spongy in exposed places. Falcate; may or may not be acropetal	10-40 Apical cells cylindrical with rounded tips.	Throughout the shore in pools, runnels and overhangs, under algae, on shells e.g. limpets	Throughout the geographical region
Coarse Green Branched Weed <i>Cladophora hutchinsiae</i>	Light to dark green, to 15 cm high, coarse and stiff. Cells just visible to the naked eye to give a dotted appearance. Acropetal in young individuals, not usually in older ones	90-195	On rocks or unattached in pools, mid to lower shore	Throughout the geographical region
<i>Cladophora laetevirens</i>	Green to olive-green, to 30 cm high, spongy or bushy tufts that can give a matted appearance. Falcate, acropetal and comb-like	35-45 (sun) 80-110 (shade)	On rocks or in rock pools from the upper shore to the shallow subtidal	Throughout the geographical region
Pellucid Green Branched Weed <i>Cladophora pellucida</i>	Medium to dark green, translucent, to 8 cm high, main axis with brush-like tufts	55-255	In shade, lower shore and subtidal, overhanging rocks or deep rock-pools on semi-exposed shores	Mainly south and west coasts of Britain and around Ireland
Wiry Green Branched Weed <i>Cladophora prolifera</i>	Dark green, to 25 cm high, stiff, coarse tufts with distinct stalk-like base formed of entangled rhizoids	90-200	On shaded rocks and in rock pools on the lower shore of sheltered or slightly exposed shores and in the subtidal to 30(+) m depth	Rare: Weymouth, Dorset; West Angle, Pembrokeshire and Colonsay, Inner Hebrides
Maerl Green Branched Weed <i>Cladophora rhodolithicola</i>	Medium to dark green, to 1 cm high, creeping with erect tufts, attached by rhizoids	37-65 (average 45)	In maerl beds, on rhodoliths	Only recorded from maerl beds off the west coast of Wales and west coast of Ireland
Common Green Branchaed Weed <i>Cladophora rupestris</i>	Dark green, to 20 cm high, brom or rope-like densely branched tufts	40-80	On rocks in the middle shore, under large algae and in rock pools on sheltered and exposed shores	Throughout the geographical region
Tufted Green Branched Weed <i>Cladophora sericea</i>	Light green to dark green, to 25 cm high, hair-like and sometimes straggly to give an untidy appearance	15-25 (sun) 50-65 (shade) Apical cells tapering	On rocks and in rock pools throughout the shore, on exposed and sheltered shores	Throughout the geographical region

Table of characteristics of main *Cladophora* species found in the geographical area.

There are approximately 18 species found in Britain and Ireland that have been placed in the genus *Cladophora* based on their morphology. Here we have provided a summary of characters for the common species. In order to distinguish between some species, it is necessary to know whether the main branches are **falcate**, i.e. curved like a sickle and if the branches that line them are **acropetal**, i.e. lined with branches of decreasing length towards the tips, or **intercalary**, i.e. lined with branches of different lengths towards the tips (see table below). The shape and diameter of the apical cells are also useful features to distinguish between species. This is particularly so when distinguishing between *C. sericea* and *C. albida*. *C. sericea* has tapering apical cells; *C. albida* has cells that are of even diameter along their length with rounded tips. In both species the reproductive cells at the ends of branches have a more cylindrical to swollen shape with rounded tips. A compound microscope is needed to tell whether the cells are vegetative or reproductive.

falcate	acropetal	intercalary
		

Compiled by Juliet Brodie and Anne R Bunker 2013