

CAULERPA FILICOIDES YAMADA, 1936 - A NEW CAULERPA  
FOR SRI LANKAR A S Ranatunga and M W R N De Silva  
National Aquatic Resources Agency  
Crow Island, Colombo 15

Caulerpa filicoides a delicate, distinctive and small Caulerpa was collected from depths of between 6 to 8 metres from two locations, Ambalangoda and Hikkaduwa in the southwestern coast of Sri Lanka, during a collection of sub-littoral algae for the Natural Resources, Energy and Science Authority by NARA. At Hikkaduwa, the alga was the dominant algal form on the reef front at depths of 6 to 8 metres. At Ambalangoda, the alga was collected from a sandstone reef south of the Ambalangoda Rock Islets at a depth of 7 metres. The plants had branched rhizomes upto 10 cm long and 0.3-0.5 mm in diameter and had finely ramified rhizoids 5-10 mm in length on the underside. The rhizome bore one to many tiered verticillate assimilatory branches spaced at intervals of 5-10mm on its upper side. These assimilators, unbranched to a height of approximately 2 mm produced whorl of 4-5 branches which sub-divided in one plane upto the 6th order. The ultimate branches were wedge-shaped and mucronate at the apices. Some assimilators showed the presence of 2-3 tiers of such delicate whorls of branches. The structure, affinities and the habitat of Caulerpa filicoides are discussed.

## Reference

- 1 Yamada, Y. (1936). Notes on some Japanese algae VII. Sci. Pap. Inst. Algol. Res. Fac. Sci. Hokkaido Imp. Univ. 1(2): 135-140.