



Tolypella nidifica

Common Name(s):

Stonewort

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: South Island. Also Australia, Europe.

Habitat:

Shallow, fresh to brackish water of two coastal waterbodies.

Features:

Aquatic, submerged, macro-algae. Low-growing plant (>0.2 m), with a untidy appearance. Loose, uneven branchlets arise in whorls from central stems, which are anchored in the sediment by colourless rhizoids. Stem and branchlets are comprised of strings of single cells that are easily punctured. Plant is not forked, but has short, multi-celled laterals, with blunt end cells. Monoecious, with antheridia and oogonia occurring on the same plant, often together and without mucus present on fertile heads.

Fruiting:

Produces small (<500µm long) golden to brown coloured oospores that are round in transverse section. Oospore has 5-6 sinistral spiralling ridges that are prominent, and a smooth membrane surface.

References and further reading:

Broady, P.A.; Flint, E.A.; Nelson, W.A.; Cassie Cooper, V.; de Winton, M.D.; Novis P.M. Chapter 23 Twenty – Three :Phyla Chlorophyta and Charophyta (Green Algae). In: New Zealand Inventory of Biodiversity (Volume 3), Gordon, D.P. (Ed), Canterbury University Press, 616pp.

Casanova, M.T.; de Winton, M.D.; Karol, K.G.; Clayton J.S. (2007). *Nitella hookeri* A. Braun (Characeae, Charophyceae) in New Zealand and Australia: implications for endemism, speciation and biogeography. *Charophytes* (1): 2-18

de Winton, M.D.; Dugdale, A.M.; Clayton, J.S. (2007). An identification key for oospores of the extant charophytes of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*:463-476

Wood RD, Mason R 1977. Characeae of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 15: 87–180.

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http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=7572