

Pylaiella littoralis (Linnaeus) Kjellman

Relevant synonym
Conferva littoralis Linnaeus

- a. Habit.
b-c. Filaments with plurilocular sporangia.
d. Cells with discoid plastids.
Bars: b = 100 μ m;
c = 50 μ m; d = 20 μ m.

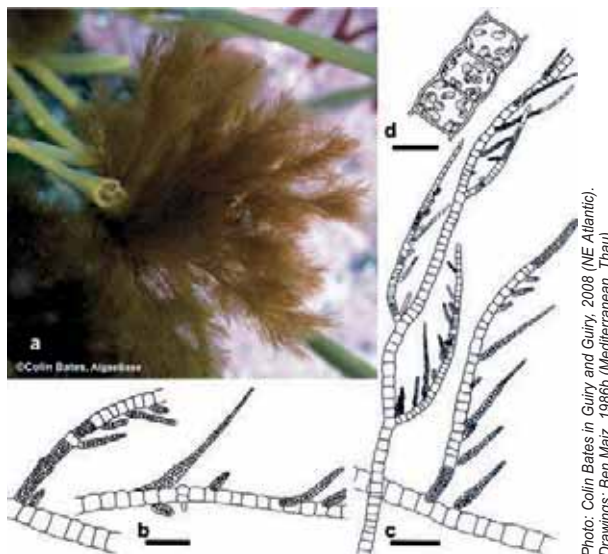


Photo: Colin Bates in Giry and Giry, 2008 (NE Atlantic).
Drawings: Ben Maiz, 1986b (Mediterranean, Thau).

Short description

Medium (to 20 cm high), filamentous, uniseriate, much branched, tapering into false hairs; growth diffuse; cells, to 50 μ m in diameter, with numerous discoid plastids, each with a pyrenoid; intercalary plurilocular sporangia, 100-205 μ m long; unilocular sporangia in a similar intercalary position, 16-60 μ m in diameter.

Distinguishing characteristics

The *Ectocarpus*-like filaments with intercalary sporangia are distinctive; no confusion possible with native species.

Biology / Ecology / Habitat

Coastal lagoons; shallow subtidal communities; annual (winter).

Distribution

Worldwide: described from Europe (Linnaeus, 1753, as *Conferva littoralis*); cosmopolite, widely distributed; north Atlantic; Indian Ocean; Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania; north Pacific (including Japan and Korea); Pacific Islands, Hawaiian Islands; Antarctica. **Mediterranean:** species widely recorded (Ribera *et al.*, 1992), but regarded as introduced from the north-eastern Atlantic or north Pacific in the northern coastal lagoons harbouring shellfish aquaculture; recorded first in 1960 from Italy, Venice (Pignatti, 1962); successively recorded in France, Etang de Thau (Ben Maiz, 1986b).

Mode of introduction

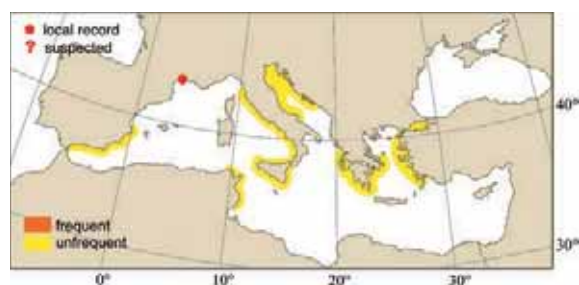
Accidental, probably transferred with oysters imported for farming from the north-eastern Atlantic or north Pacific (Japan, British Columbia).

Establishment

Well established.

Importance to humans

None.



1st Mediterranean record
Venice Lagoon, Italy, 1962
[1960].

Key references

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- Linnaeus C., 1753. *Species plantarum*, Vol. 2 pp. [j], 561-1200. Holmiae [Stockholm]: Impensis Laurentii Salvii.
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- Ribera M.A., Gómez-Garreta A., Gallardo T., Cormaci M., Furnari G. and Giaccone G., 1992. Check-list of Mediterranean Seaweeds. I. Fucophyceae (Warming 1884). *Botanica Marina*, 35: 109-130.