C. sertularioides is a small delicate green alga found only in O‘ahu and Kaua‘i. This species closely resembles C. taxifolia, the invasive "killer weed" of the Mediterranean.

**Identifying Features**

**Description**

Branches, feather-like, flattened, and upright, 3 - 5 cm high, rising from a creeping stolon (runner), 1 - 2mm in diameter, anchored by rhizoids to the substrate. Branchlets oppositely attached to midrib, flattened, slightly curved upwards and tapered at both base and tip. Midrib is slightly flattened, appearing oval in cross-section.

This species resembles another native Hawaiian Caulerpa species, C. taxifolia. C. sertularioides is more delicate and the branchlets are rounded, compared to the flattened branchlets of C. taxifolia. The rising branches are also more rounded toward apices, compared to the more angular, squared-off branches of C. taxifolia.

**Color**

Light green to yellow green.

**Habitat**

This delicate plant is usually found in warm, quiet waters in tide pools or on sandy, calm reef flats. It anchors to sandy bottoms or coral rubble by the creeping rhizoids.

**Structural Features**

Thallus non-septate, coenocytic, traversed by trabeculae, which are extensions of cell wall; reproduction vegetative and sexual, latter anisogamous. Gametes liberated through papillae that develop on frond or occasionally on frond.
**DISTRIBUTION**

**HAWAI’I**

Northwest Hawaiian Islands, O‘ahu, Kaua‘i.

**WORLDWIDE**

Pacific Mexico, Caroline Islands, Micronesia, North Marianas, Marshall Islands, Gilbert Islands, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Japan, China, Australia, Philippines, Tahiti, Indonesia, Indian Ocean, Caribbean to Brazil.

**MECHANISM OF INTRODUCTION**

Indigenous to Hawai‘i.

**ECOLOGY/IMPACT**

Little information has been recorded on *Caulerpa sertularioides*. This green alga is a native of Hawai‘i, and is quite common throughout the world. The Hawaiian version is small and delicate and grows in small patches in quiet, warm waters on reef flats.

This species is an unassuming, uncommon alga that can easily be mistaken for *C. taxifolia*. *C. taxifolia* is on Invasives lists elsewhere in the world because of its highly invasive nature. Though not an invasive in Hawaiian waters, *C. taxifolia* communities should be watched for invasive tendencies. For this reason, it is important to differentiate between the two species.

The extensive rhizoid system of *C. sertularioides* aids in nutrient acquisition from sediments. Similar to other *Caulerpa* species, recruitment primarily occurs by fragmentation, but *C. sertularioides* also reproduces sexually.

**REFERENCES**


**WEB LINKS**


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*Caulerpa sertularioides* herbarium sheet