

Harpoon weed

Asparagopsis armata

M. Altamirano

MORPHOLOGY

Up to 20cm long. Light pink/red colour, with branches at the base shaped as a harpoon.

WHERE AND WHEN TO FIND IT

In Ireland it is confined to the lower intertidal and subtidal. Abundant in Autumn and Winter.

THE OTHER STAGE

This species also presents a different morphology. They look like fluffy red pompons, free floating or attached to other

POSSIBLE MISIDENTIFICATIONS

Bonnemaisonia hamifera, but without harpoon- like branches.

Wakame

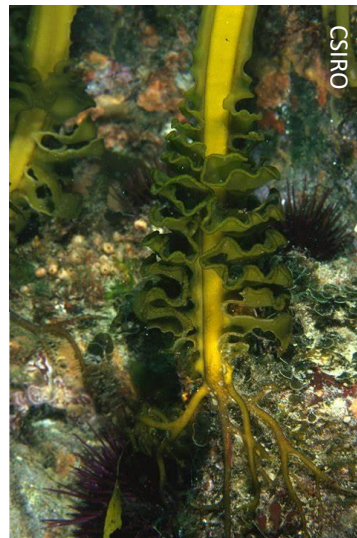
Undaria pinnatifida



MORPHOLOGY



Up to 2 m long. Yellow to dark brown in colour. Attachment structure is a flat stipe which finishes in bird foot-like prolongations, with many lateral waves. It has one single midrib from where multiple and thin blades grow.

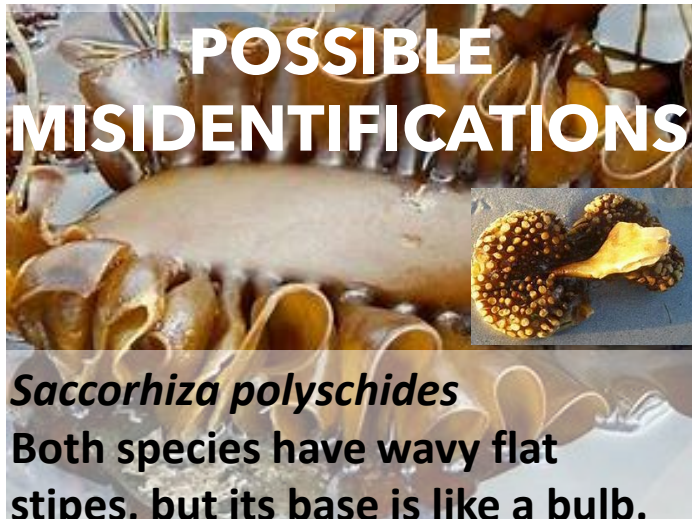


WHERE AND WHEN TO FIND IT



Found on rocky substrata, in low intertidal to -18 m. In Ireland is present from late Autumn to mid-Summer.

POSSIBLE MISIDENTIFICATIONS



Saccorhiza polyschides
Both species have wavy flat stipes, but its base is like a bulb.

Invasive species of seaweed in Ireland

Golden kelp

Laminaria ochroleuca

MORPHOLOGY

Up to 2 m. Golden colour at the base of the frond. Attached by clean holdfast, smooth stipe that snaps when it is bent and is rarely covered with epiphytes. Broad irregular rigid blades.

WHERE AND WHEN TO FIND IT

Rocky substrates in low intertidal to -20 m. In Ireland seasonality is unknown.

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POSSIBLE MISIDENTIFICATIONS

Laminaria digitata and *Laminaria hyperborea*, both darker in colour, rigid stipe usually covered with epiphytes.



Valorisation of
invasive seaweed



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Invasive species of seaweed in Ireland

Oyster thief

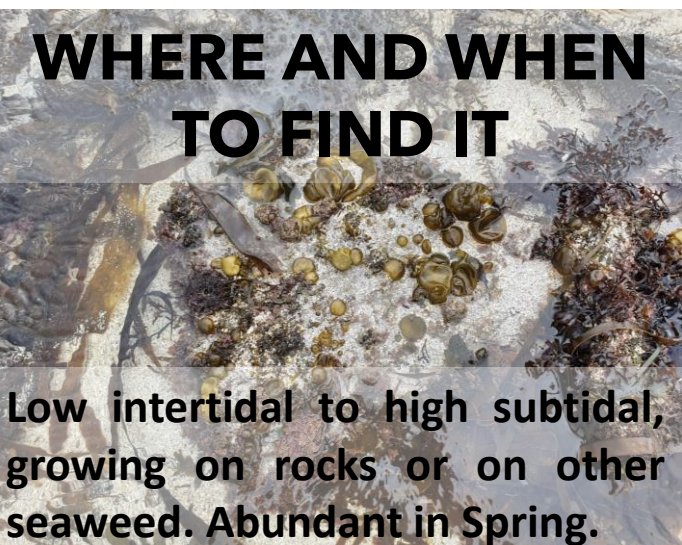
Colpomenia peregrina

MORPHOLOGY



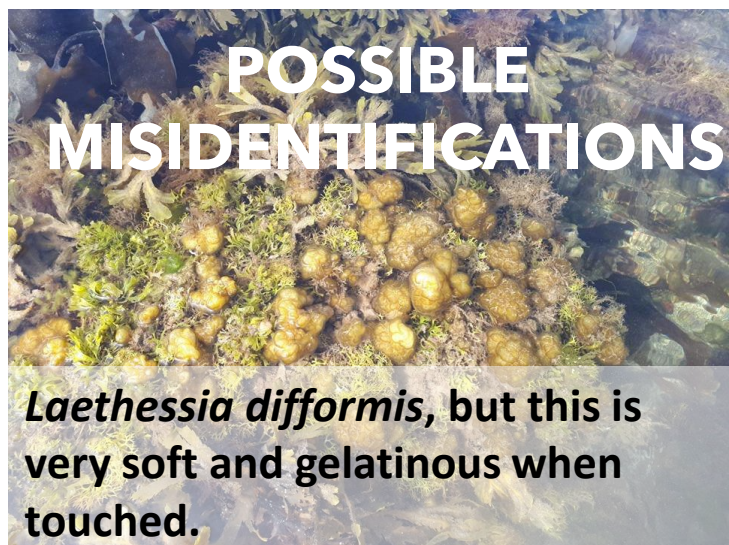
Up to 10 cm in diameter, light brown colour, sinuous shape, rough when touched.

WHERE AND WHEN TO FIND IT



Low intertidal to high subtidal, growing on rocks or on other seaweed. Abundant in Spring.

POSSIBLE MISIDENTIFICATIONS




Laethessia difformis, but this is very soft and gelatinous when touched.

 Valorisation of
invasive seaweed



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Wireweed

Sargassum muticum

MORPHOLOGY



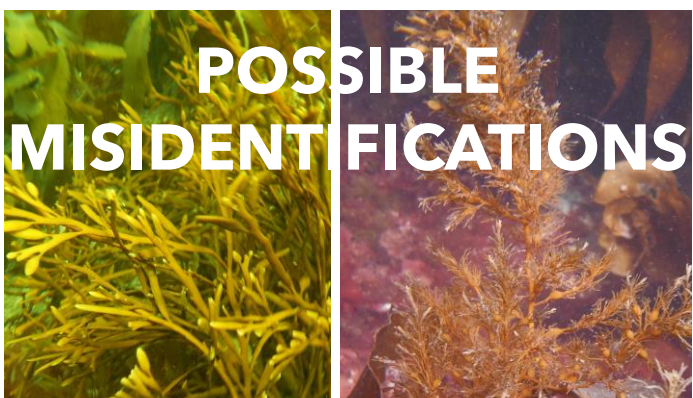
Usually up to 2 m. Light brown colour. Attached by a disc-shaped holdfast. Highly branched, bushy. It has leaf-like proliferations and small gas vesicles along the thallus. Slimy to the touch.

WHERE AND WHEN TO FIND IT



Sheltered areas (also rock pools), low intertidal to high subtidal. Abundant in Spring and Summer.

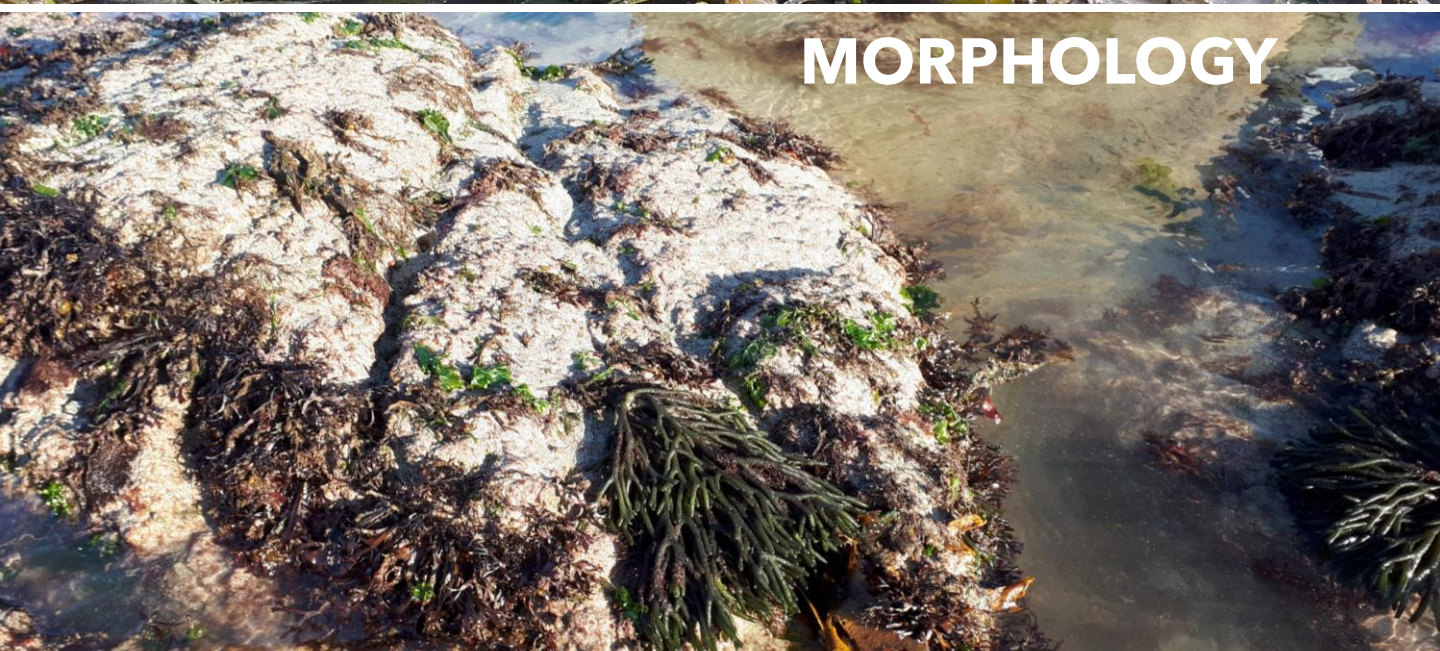
POSSIBLE MISIDENTIFICATIONS



Halydris siliquosa, flattened fronds and bigger bladders.
Cystoseira sp., smaller, more robust and rough to the touch.

Green sponge fingers

Codium fragile



MORPHOLOGY

Dark green in colour. Erect finger-like fronds, growing up to 40 cm long, branching repeatedly into two equal parts.

WHERE AND WHEN TO FIND IT



Sheltered areas (also rock pools), low intertidal to high subtidal. Abundant in Spring and Summer.

POSSIBLE MISIDENTIFICATIONS



Codium vermilara

Usually smaller, thinner and more bushy. Microscopic ID might be needed.

Asian seaweed

Rugulopterix okamurae

MORPHOLOGY

Up to 33 cm long and 36 wide. Brown/green colour, not iridescent. The edges of the fronds are thickened. Attaches by stolons and rhizoids.

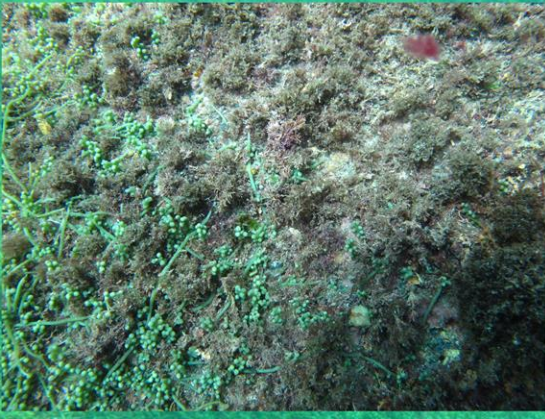
WHERE AND WHEN TO FIND IT

Intertidal to low subtidal. Up to 50 m. Has not been reported in Ireland so far.

POSSIBLE MISIDENTIFICATIONS

Dictyota dichotoma
Smooth flat edges. Might need genetic confirmation.

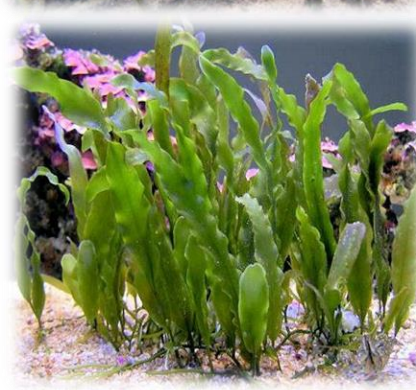
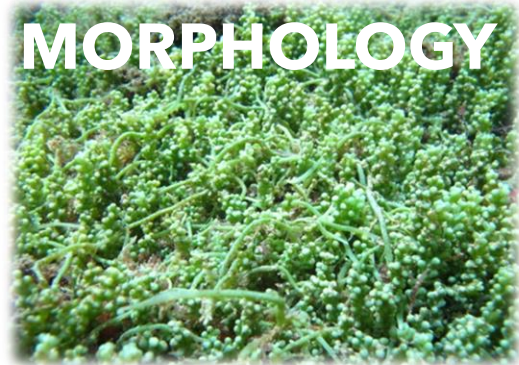
Relevant invasive species of seaweed



Sea grapes

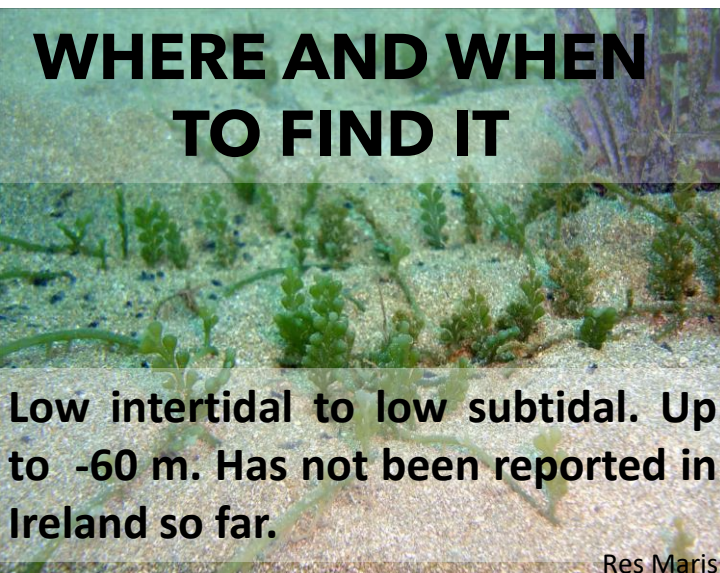
Caulerpa species

MORPHOLOGY



Several morphologies. Green colour. Fronds are rounded or filiform, in groups and connected to each other by stolons, which in turn are attached to substrata by thin rhizoids.

WHERE AND WHEN TO FIND IT




Low intertidal to low subtidal. Up to -60 m. Has not been reported in Ireland so far.

Res Maris

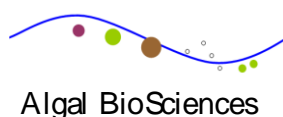
POSSIBLE MISIDENTIFICATIONS

No similar seaweeds to *Caulerpa* species are found in Ireland.

 Valorisation of
invasive seaweed



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