

Codium fragile fragile Dead man's fingers

Division: Chlorophyta
Class: Bryopsidophyceae
Order: Bryopsidales
Family: Codiaceae
Genus: *Codium* (**Species:** *Codium fragile*)

Synonymised Taxa

Codium fragile capense P.C.Silva, 1959
Codium fragile tomentosoides (van Goor)
P.C.Silva, 1955

Larval Period

Swarmers are released into the water column and dispersed. Period before settlement is not known. The species can also reproduce by fragmentation of the thallus.

Distribution (Bioregions)

Native: 16 **Introduced:** 3, 4, 5, 8, 18 (South Australia & Victoria).



Habitat

This alga attaches to hard surfaces such as rocks, shell and artificial structures. It's found in the subtidal zone, but may occur in rock pools in the intertidal zone. Survives in both sheltered and exposed areas of coast-line. It's able to tolerate polluted areas.

Temperature Tolerance

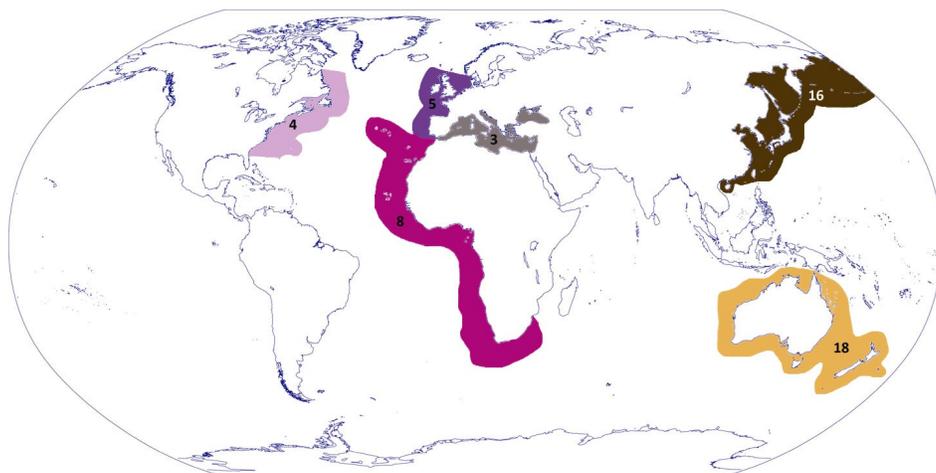
Optimum temperature is 24°C, however reproduction is still viable down to 12°C. Can survive to between -2 to 34°C.

Salinity Range

17.5 to 40 PSU

Size

Up to 1 m in length.



List

- CCIMPE
- WA species of concern
- Woodside

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Key Features

- Green in colour;
- Spongy with a velvet texture;
- The holdfast is broad and also sponge-like;
- The juvenile stages are mat-like with a mossy appearance and furry texture;
- The branches are cylindrical in shape, 3-10 mm in diameter and branch dichotomously;
- Can have up to 10 orders of dichotomous branching fronds;
- The surface layer of the fronds are formed by tiny, tightly compressed utricles;
- The utricles are cylindrical or club-shaped and are used to determine the various subspecies of *Codium fragile*;
- **The utricles of this subspecies are club-shaped i.e. they are constricted at the middle, and have a pointed (nipple-like) mucron. These can be observed under a microscope.**

