

Undaria pinnatifida

Undaria kelp or Wakame seaweed

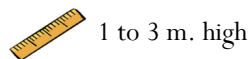
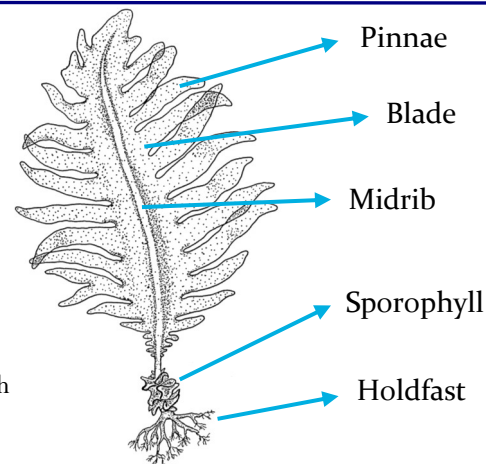


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MARINE-COASTAL EXOTIC SPECIES GUIDE OF ARGENTINA

DESCRIPTION

- Mature plants have a wide, brown to gold blade deeply divided in pinnae and a conspicuous midrib.
- In immature plants, no such pinnae are present, and initially there is no midrib.
- The plants are attached to the substratum by a holdfast, and die every year forming large accumulations of putrid plant material along the shore.
- The most conspicuous characteristic of this species is the spiral, folded sporophyll.



Mature plant



Sporophyll and holdfast detail



HABITAT

This marine algae can be found in shallow subtidal areas - up to 20 m. deep in clear waters, attached to hard substrata, like rocks, pilings, docks or ship hulls. Occasionally, some individuals, especially immature ones, may be found in tide pools or rocky shores.

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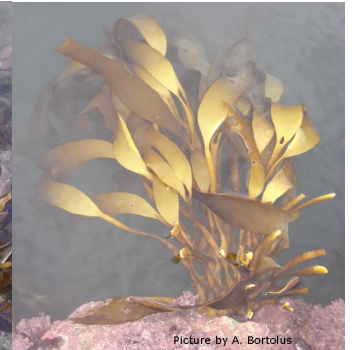
SIMILAR SPECIES

- *Macrocystis pyrifera*: The main difference with *Undaria pinnatifida* is the presence of blades with floating structures. This species lacks of the sporophyll shown by *U. pinnatifida*.
- *Lessonia* spp: Unlike *Undaria pinnatifida*, the species within genus *Lessonia* do not have midrib in their blades. As *M. pyrifera*, they also lack of a sporophyll.

Macrocystis pyrifera



Lessonia sp.



INVASIVE STATUS

Native to Japan, it was first found in Argentina in 1992. It has been recorded from Mar del Plata - Buenos Aires (37°59'S) to Puerto Deseado - Santa Cruz (47°45'S). Due to its size and rapid growth rate, this species is able to displace other native algae species from their hábitat, and they proved capable of negatively affect reef fish species abundance.

CONTACT US

This guide has been developed by the Grupo de Ecología en Ambientes Costeros (GEAC), from CENPAT (CONICET). If you find this species outside the reported areas, please contact us and let us know the date, locality, approximate number of individuals and, if posible, send us pictures:

 especiesexoticasarg@gmail.com



Grupo de Ecología en Ambientes Costeros (GEAC)