Knobbly agar seaweed

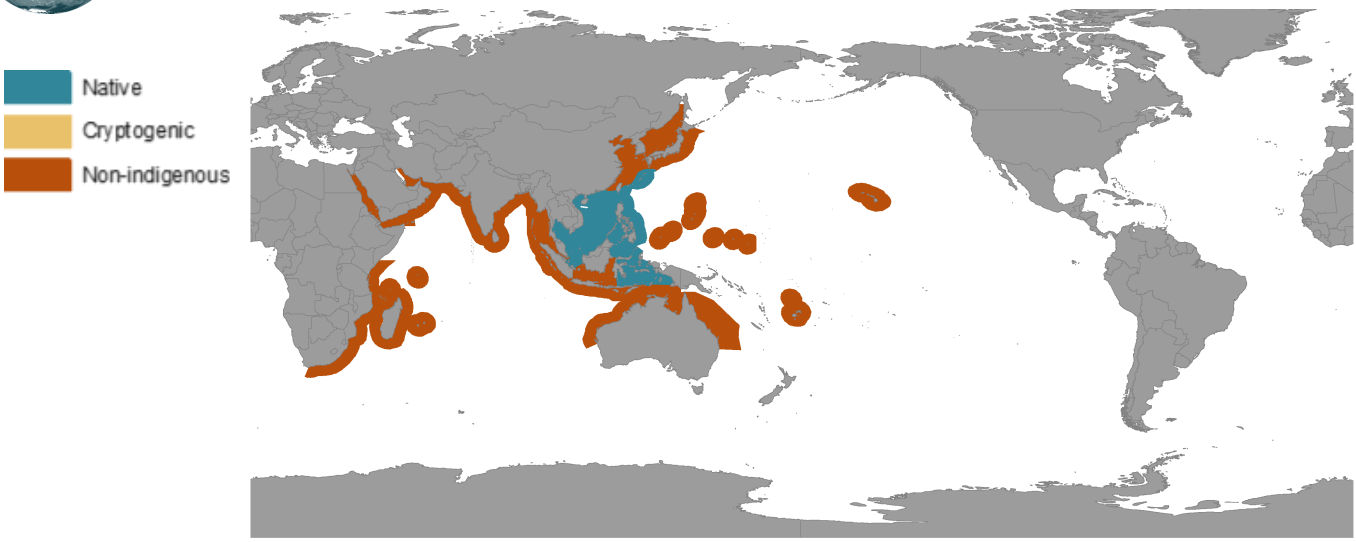
Gracilaria salicornia (C.Agardh) E.Y.Dawson, 1954

KEY FEATURES

- Plants frequently lying along substrate, spreading in clumps up to 30 cm or broader, often accumulating rocks and pebbles between branches
- May grow erect from inconspicuous disk-like holdfasts, with secondary attachments in places
- Axes, 3–18 cm long, 1.5–4 mm broad, cylindrical to compressed, brittle
- Intertidal to subtidal in tidepools and reef flats to 4 m depth
- Doubling rate is around 15 days, species easily fragmented aiding dispersal
- Tolerates different conditions well, producing pigments of different concentrations along portions of its thallus to enable response to varying light levels

PATHWAY

✓ ballast water ✓ biofouling ✓ aquaculture transfer



Knobbly agar seaweed

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IMPACTS

Environmental impacts

Introduced *Gracilaria* can cause damage to native coral environments through high growth rates and smothering. Can cause large mats to form and cover benthic communities and monopolise substratum. Becomes the single most dominant species and can cause phase shifts from coral to algal dominance, which can cause loss of biodiversity

Human health impacts

None known

Social & cultural impacts

In Hawai'i, thousands of kilograms wash up onto the beach, affecting beach aesthetics and tourism

Economic impacts

Through displacement of native algae, may indirectly affect the abundance of fish and invertebrates of commercial interest

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Axes and branches regularly to irregularly constricted or uninterrupted, or both conditions occurring on same plant or adjoining plants

DISTRIBUTION

Native range Native to the Philippines and Indo-West Pacific from the Indian Ocean to Fiji; however, it has not been reported from many central Pacific islands

Non-indigenous range Hawai'i

CREDITS AND REFERENCES (click reference for more information)

Images From Yang et al. 2013

References Yang et al. 2013 , Botany, University of Hawai'i at Manoa (2001), Rodgers et al. (1999)

SPREP Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

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Pacific Invasive Species BATTLER

UN environment programme