

Appendix III

Seagrass identification sheets & key

SEAGRASS SPECIES CODES

ZC

Zostera capricorni



- 5 longitudinal veins
- Cross veins
- Leaf grows straight from rhizome ie no shoot

Syringodium isoetifolium

SI



- Cylindrical in cross section, leaf tip tapers to a point

Halophila ovalis

HO



- Eight or more cross veins and no hairs of leaf surface

Halophila spinulosa

HS



- Fern like

HU

Halodule uninervis



- 1 central vein and trident leaf tip
- Usually pale rhizome, with clean black leaf scars



CS

Cymodocea serrulata



- Serrated leaf tip
- 13-17 longitudinal veins
- Wide leaf blade (5-9mm wide)



SEAGRASS SPECIES CODES

CR

Cymodocea rotundata

- 7-15 veins
- Well developed leaf sheath
- Rounded leaf tip



HM

Halophila minor

- Less than 8 pairs of cross veins
- Small oval leaf blade



HT

Halophila tricostata

- Leaves with 3 veins
- 2-3 leaves at each node
- Oblong -serrated leaves
- Leaves "whorl" around stem
- Found subtidally



TH

Thalassia hemprichii

- Short black bars of tannin cells on leaf
- Thick rhizome with scars between shoots
- "Sickle" shaped leaves



Key for Sterile Material of Queensland Seagrasses

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Leaves petiolate or compound, or strap-shaped without a ligule (i.e. a tongue-like structure at the junction of leaf blade and sheath) | (Hydrocharitaceae) | 2 |
| Leaves linear to strap-shaped and ligulate, neither petiolate nor compound | | 4 |
| 2. Leaves strap-shaped, neither compound nor petiolate | | 3 |
| Leaves compound or petiolate | <i>Halophila</i> | |
| A. Plants with erect lateral shoots bearing a number of leaves | | B |
| Plants without erect, lateral shoots, but one pair of petiolate leaves at each rhizome node | | C |
| B. 10-20 pairs of distichous leaflets on an erect lateral shoot, blade with dense serrated margin | <i>H. spinulosa</i> | |
| 3 leaves per erect lateral shoot node; blade with sparse serrated margin | <i>H. tricostata</i> | |
| C. Leaf blade longer than petiole; blade margin finely serrated, blade surface usually hairy | <i>H. decipiens</i> | |
| Leaf blade normally shorter than petiole; blade margin entire, blade surface naked | | D |
| D. Leaf blade oval to oblong, less than 5mm wide, cross veins up to ten pairs | <i>H. minor</i> | |
| Leaf blade oval to elliptical, more than 5mm wide, cross veins more than 10 pairs | <i>H. ovalis</i> | |
| 3. Rhizome more than 1cm in diameter, without scales, but covered with long black bristles (fibre strands); roots cord-like | <i>Enhalus acoroides</i> | |
| Rhizome less than 0.5mm in diameter, covered with scales, but no fibrous bristles; root normal | <i>Thalassia hemprichii</i> | |
| 4. Leaf blade more or less terete | <i>Syringodium isoetifolium</i> | |
| Leaf blade linear, flat, not terete | | 5 |
| 5. Plants with elongated erect stem bearing terminal clustered leaves; rhizome stiff, woody; root stiff | <i>Thalassodendron ciliatum</i> | |
| Plants with a short or no erect stem, bearing linear leaves; rhizome herbaceous; root fleshy | | 6 |
| 6. Rhizome bearing short erect stems; leaf sheath finally falling and leaving a clean scar, blade apex usually serrated or dentated; roots arising not in groups | | 7 |
| Rhizome without erect stems; leaf sheath persistent, remaining as fibrous strands covering truncate, neither serrated nor dentated; roots arising in 2 distinct groups of 4-8 at each node | <i>Zostera capricornii</i> | |
| 7. Leaf blade with 3 veins | <i>Halodule</i> | 8 |
| Leaf blade with more than 7 veins | <i>Cymodocea</i> | 9 |
| 8. Leaf apex tridentate, with median tooth blunt and well developed lateral teeth | <i>H. uninervis</i> | |
| Leaf apex more or less rounded, lateral teeth weak | <i>H. pinifolia</i> | |
| 9. Leaf scars closed; blade apex rounded with no or weakly serrated | <i>C. rotundata</i> | |
| Leaf scars open; blade apex blunt with strongly to moderately serrated | <i>C. serrulata</i> | |

(Prepared by J Kuo, UWA, Apr. 94)

