

Red Alga

Grateloupia doryphora

Habitat: Aquatic, marine

Family name: *Haloragaceae, Rhodophyta*

Common name: Red Alga, Montagne (Howe)
(*Grateloupia turuturu* or *Grateloupia doryphora*,
Halymenia)



Red Alga stand

Description:

Red alga is most likely native to Peru and is considered to be the largest and variable species of red alga in the world.

Red alga seaweed recently introduced to Europe probably via oyster spawn importations.



Red alga grows in sheltered and exposed areas by attaching to solid substrates such as rocks and artificial structures.

Thallus (body) narrow to broad lanceolate have a soft gel-like texture.



Blades can be red,



Red alga blades

olive green, purple to yellowish in colour, stemming from a single hold-fast anchor point.

Blades are often incised in the upper half with margins of

short and narrow spine-like proliferations (less than 1mm wide), sometimes plane. Several narrow blades are produced from broad flat stipes.



Grateloupia doryphora

The colour and texture of Red alga (*Grateloupia doryphora*) resembles some forms of *Schizymenia pacifica* but differs in lacking gland cells and having a more lanceolate structure.



Schizymenia pacifica

Grateloupia doryphora is also more gelatinous than *Schizymenia pacifica*.

Red alga blades can grow to more than 3cm wide.



Red alga (*Grateloupia doryphora*) can be difficult to distinguish from other species such as *prionitis lyallii* and may need to be critically examined to properly identify. Normally *Grateloupia* species show stellate cells in the out medulla and have a narrow cortex, whereas *prionitis* stellate cells are absent and the cortex is much thicker.

General Seaweed Structure & Terminology

