

A New Species of *Nitella* (Characeae) from Southern Queensland.

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NITELLA PHAULOTELES, sp. nov.

Sect. Homœoclemæ arthrodactylæ vicellulatæ flabellatæ
macrodactylæ gymnocephalæ monoeciæ.

Stem c. 450 μ in diameter. Branchlets normally 6 in a whorl, varying greatly in length in the same whorl, the fertile 2–3, sometimes 4 times forked; primary ray $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the entire branchlet, secondary rays usually 4, tertiary 2–4, quaternary and quinary usually 2, the rays at each furcation conspicuously unequal; final rays (dactyls) uniformly 2-celled, the lower cell of moderate length, not tapering but rounded at the distal extremity, upper cell very small bluntly conical. Gametangia produced somewhat irregularly at all the branchlet-nodes, but oogonia and antheridia rarely at the same node. Oogonia solitary 400–450 μ long, c. 375 μ broad; coronula c. 30 μ high, 60 μ broad. Oospore golden-brown, c. 275–300 long, 240–265 μ broad, 175–200 μ thick, showing 6–7 strong high ridges; membrane apparently without decoration. Antheridium c. 400 μ in diameter.

Doomben, near Brisbane, E. W. I. Buhot.

The specimens show a small plant of lax habit, the whorls attaining a diameter of about 15 mm. From the material available it has not been found practicable to describe the lower sterile whorls, but it is hoped that further specimens will be forthcoming to allow of an ampler description. The outstanding features appear to be, the remarkably irregular length of branchlets and rays, and the very small bluntly-conical ultimate cells. I have not been able to detect any decoration on the oospore-membranes examined. The dimensions given for fruits, &c., are the result of several measurements in each case, but should be regarded as a merely approximate guide, as with these plants there is, in this respect, usually considerable variation in different individuals.



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