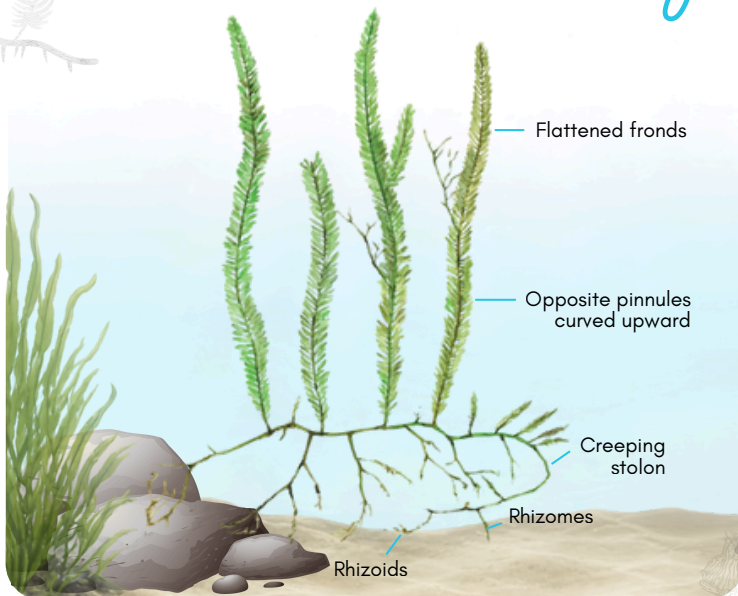
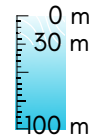
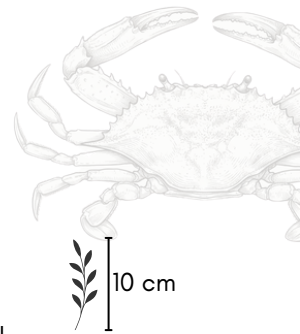


Killer

algae - *Caulerpa taxifolia*



Photoautotroph



IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

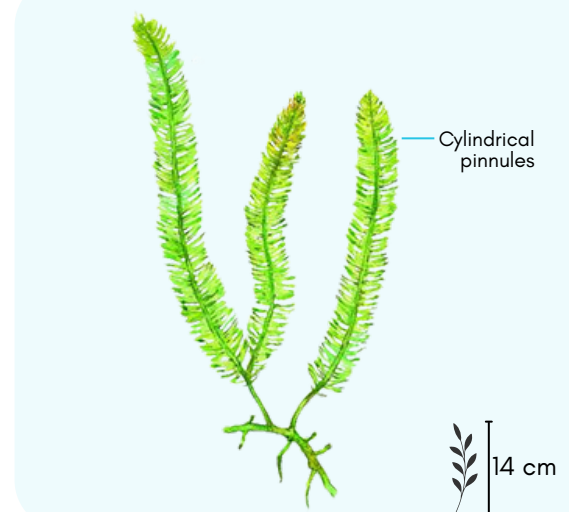
Structure: Creeping stolons, upright and flattened fronds (feather-shaped), flattened and upward-curved branches

Color: Green

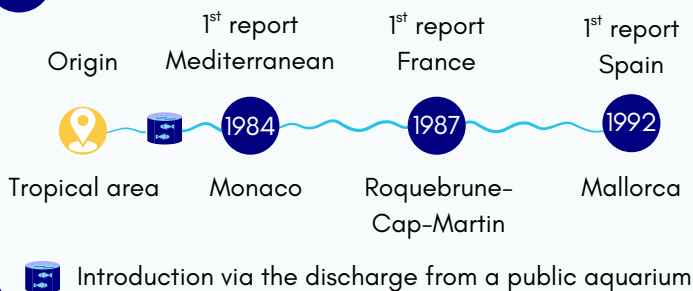


SIMILAR SPECIES

Caulerpa sertularioides



ITS HISTORY



ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Caulerpa taxifolia colonizes the seabed, **suffocating** local species such as *Posidonia oceanica* and **reducing** biodiversity. It synthesizes **toxins** (caulerpenyne) that repel **marine herbivores**, affecting their health and survival. **Food webs** and the **carbon cycle** are disrupted because the alga does not effectively act as a **carbon sink**. **Management** and **eradication** costs are high. **Fishing** and **boating** are **disrupted** by the entanglement of nets and anchors, requiring cleanups to prevent further spread.



FUN FACTS

Importation and possession **banned** in France

Sensitive to **copper**, which is used to limit its expansion.

A **fragment** regenerates an **entire alga**

MINKA



BioObs

