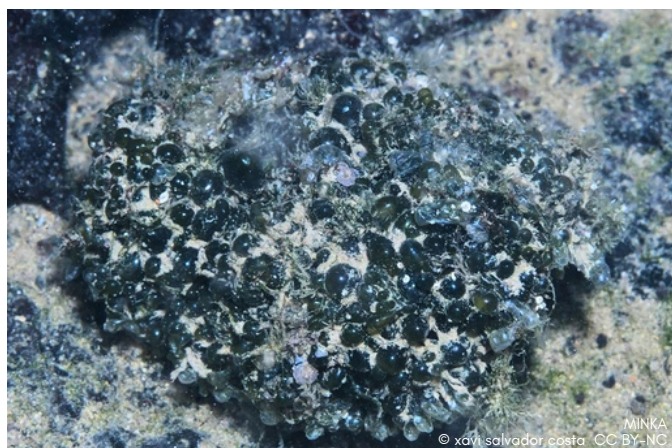
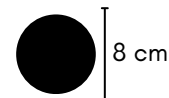


Bubble

alga - *Valonia aegagropila*



Photoautotroph



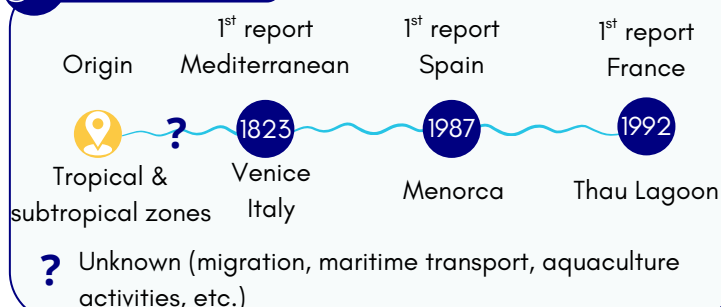
IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

Structure: Spherical ball, translucent **vesicles** wider at the base than at the apex, **siphonous thallus** with tightly packed utricles

Color: Dark green



ITS HISTORY



ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Valonia aegagropila colonizes soft substrates, forming a **dense layer** that can reach up to 50 cm in thickness, **smothering** and **replacing** native flora. By modifying the habitat, it acts as a **keystone species** and becomes the primary **structuring factor for benthic fauna**: its thalli provide a new substrate for hard-bottom organisms. However, the decomposition of its accumulated masses poses a risk of **local anoxia**.

Economic impact: These algal mats clog fishing nets and hinder navigation, **complicating the management** of lagoon resources.



FUN FACTS

Generates its own **buoyancy**

Antibacterial capacity: higher than that of penicillin

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



SIMILAR SPECIES

Sea tube - *Valonia utricularis*

Attached to the substrate



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