

Abstract:

Algae of the genus *Codium* are currently among the most important marine green macroalgae. They have a rich diversity and a wide distribution range in coastal communities from tropical to subarctic regions. The most important and prominent species is *Codium fragile*, a dichotomously branched alga with a characteristic shape of utricles, ending in a tip, the mucron. Over the course of the previous century, it was able to spread from its native Japan to the world's oceans and successfully colonize both hemispheres. Such large-scale dispersal is possible because of its reproductive strategies such as parthenogenesis and fragmentation of the thallus, rapid growth, and wide tolerance of physiological conditions. These algae serve as food sources and natural medicines with potential use in the pharmaceutical industry, but the main focus of scientific studies is on their invasive nature. The same is the case in this bachelor thesis. In addition, this thesis is also a review of publications on their morphology, taxonomy, phylogeny and ecology, and historical and recent distribution

Key words: *Codium fragile*, macroalgae, ecology, diversity, distribution, invasion