

Key to species of the Chlorophyta (green algae)

1. Filamentous algae less than 1 mm thick. A microscope is required to identify various species. 4
 - *1. Flattened algae, algae otherwise whose general shape can be discerned without a microscope..... 2
2. Grass-green algae. The thallus is flat or cylindrical, made of 2 layers of cells. Very common. Often exposed to air3
 - *2 Algae otherwise.7
- 3(2) Flattened algae that resemble wide 'leaves' or elongated ribbons. Microscopic examination reveals two layers of cells attached to one another.**Ulva.**
- *3. A tubular algae, rarely flattened. A cross section near its base reveals two layers of cells with a space in between **Ulva (used to be Enteromorpha).**
- 4(1). Through a microscope, a row of cells can be seen without side branching. **Chaetomorpha.**
- *4. Algae with secondary branching. 5
5. The thallus' branching is dichotomous. The algae has no cell walls (coenocyte) **Boodleopsis.**
- *5. Side branches split out from a central axis.....6
6. Microscopic examination reveals a partition between the side branch and the central branch through it. Often, the side branches face only one side of the central axis. **Cladophora.**
- *6. Microscopic examination reveals the absence of a partition between the central branch and the side branches, except between the central branch and the upper section..... **Cladophoropsis.**
- 7(2). The alga resembles a cluster of green cysts..... 8
- *7. Algae otherwise. 9

8. The algae resembles a cluster of green, rounded vesicles joined together. To be found at the bottom of the intertidal zone and exposed to wave activity or potholes. **Valonia**.

*8. The corpuscles are arranged cluster-like along a central axis. Species characteristic of deep water in the Eastern Mediterranean..... **Caulerpa**.

9(7). The algae's thallus resembles a simple or emarginate leaf, and sits atop a shoot or stalk-like organ **Caulerpa**.

*9 Algae otherwise. 10

10. The thallus resembles a feather: side branches stemming out from a central axis. **Bryopsis**.

*10. Algae otherwise. 11

11. Calcified algae, the thallus resembles a tiny, cactus bush. The species is a characteristic of potholes **Halimeda**.

*11. Algae otherwise. 12

12. The thallus is fan-shaped. Its lower section is narrow, widening towards the top. The species inhabits potholes **Flabellia (=Udotea)**.

*12. Algae otherwise. 13

13. The thallus is fleshy, has a dark green hue and a velvety texture 14

*13. Algae otherwise. The alga is connected to a substrate using a holdfast emanating from the centre of the thallus. 15

14(13). The thallus is truncheon-like. Its size reaches a few centimetres. Branchless plants that grow in the lower region of potholes, sometimes on sandy substrate..... **Dasycladus**.

*14. The fleshy thallus incorporates dichotomous branching. **Codium**

15. An umbel-shaped algae, held atop a long central axis. **Acetabularia**.

*15. Algal shape is round. The thallus edges are slightly cylindrical. Upon its surface, continuous veins can be seen that run from the thallus' edge to its centre, resembling a star. **Anadyomene**.