



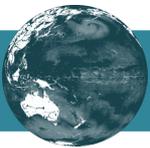
# Knobbly agar seaweed

*Gracilaria salicornia* (C.Agardh) E.Y.Dawson, 1954

## KEY FEATURES



- Plants frequently lying along substrate, spreading in clumps up to 30 cm or broader, often accumulating rocks and pebbles between branches
- May grow erect from inconspicuous disk-like holdfasts, with secondary attachments in places
- Axes, 3–18 cm long, 1.5–4 mm broad, cylindrical to compressed, brittle
- Intertidal to subtidal in tidepools and reef flats to 4 m depth
- Doubling rate is around 15 days, species easily fragmented aiding dispersal
- Tolerates different conditions well, producing pigments of different concentrations along portions of its thallus to enable response to varying light levels



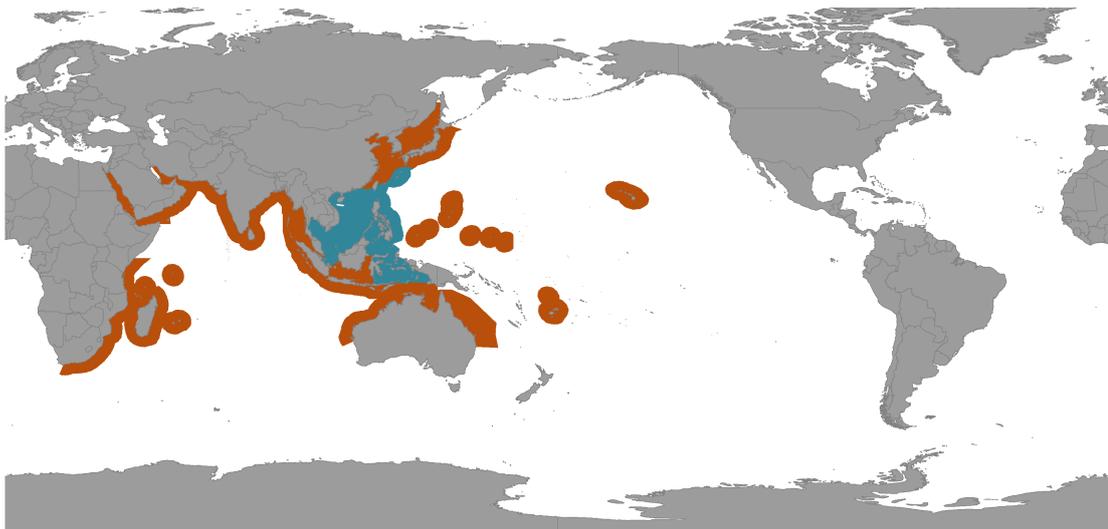
## PATHWAY

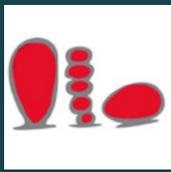
✓ ballast water

✓ biofouling

✓ aquaculture transfer

■ Native  
■ Cryptogenic  
■ Non-indigenous





# Knobbly agar seaweed

*Gracilaria salicornia* (C.Agardh) E.Y.Dawson 1954

## IMPACTS



**Environmental impacts**

Introduced *Gracilaria* can cause damage to native coral environments through high growth rates and smothering. Can cause large mats to form and cover benthic communities and monopolise substratum. Becomes the single most dominant species and can cause phase shifts from coral to algal dominance, which can cause loss of biodiversity



**Human health impacts**

None known



**Social & cultural impacts**

In Hawai'i, thousands of kilograms wash up onto the beach, affecting beach aesthetics and tourism



**Economic impacts**

Through displacement of native algae, may indirectly affect the abundance of fish and invertebrates of commercial interest

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Axes and branches regularly to irregularly constricted or uninterrupted, or both conditions occurring on same plant or adjoining plants

## DISTRIBUTION

## NOT PRESENT IN TUVALU

**Native range** Native to the Philippines and Indo-West Pacific from the Indian Ocean to Fiji; however, it has not been reported from many central Pacific islands

**Non-indigenous range** Hawai'i

## CREDITS AND REFERENCES (click reference for more information)

**Images** From [Yang et al. 2013](#)

**References** [Yang et al. 2013](#) , [Botany, University of Hawai'i at Manoa \(2001\)](#), [Rodgers et al. \(1999\)](#)