

# **MARVELS OF MACROALGAE: KAPPAHYCUS ALVAREZII AND GRACILARIA DURA**



**Dr. Biji Cyriac**



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GRACILARIA DURA***

BY  
Dr. Biji Cyriac



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# **Marvels of Macroalgae: Kappahycus Alvarezii and Gracilaria Dura**

**© Dr. Biji Cyriac**

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**DEDICATED TO MY  
CONGREGATION,  
ST. JOSEPH OF LYON AND  
MY DEAR PARENTS**



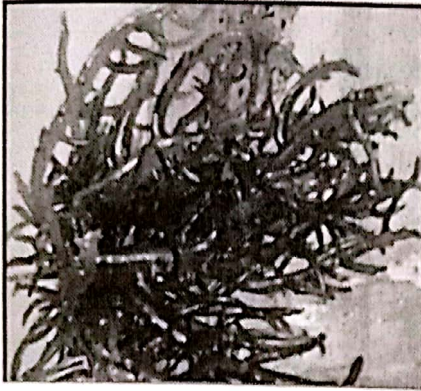
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## Taxonomy of Seaweeds

### 1. *Kappaphycus alvarezii* (Doty) Doty ex. P. C. Silva

#### Taxonomic Position



Domain : Eukaryota  
Kingdom : Plantae  
Phylum : Rhodophyta  
Class : Rhodophyceae  
Order : Gigartinales  
Family : Solieriaceae  
Genus : *Kappaphycus*  
Species : *alvarezii*

#### Description

*Kappaphycus alvarezii* is one of the tropical and fast growing red seaweed that doubles its biomass within 15 days. The algae that quite tough, large, fleshy, firm and capable of growing up to 1-2 meters tall and they are green or yellow in colour.

Their branches are very heavy and highly irregular, forming dense tangles of seaweed. Thalli coarse with axes and branches 1-2cm diameter.

#### Distribution

*Kappaphycus alvarezii* is a native to the Indo-Pacific (Malaysia and Philippines) but widely distributed and cultivated in western Pacific and Indian oceans. In India, there is no natural occurrence of red seaweed *Kappaphycus*, but it was introduced for commercial exploitation.