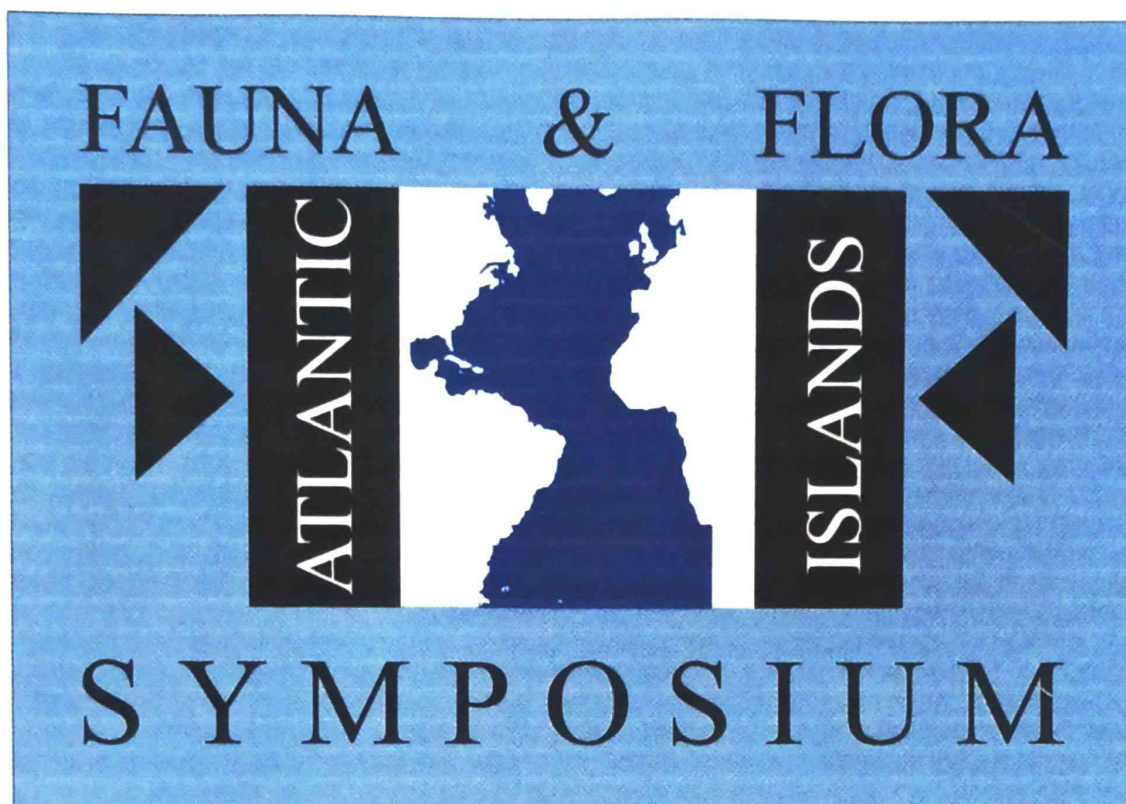


**MORPHOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION OF *ACROSYMPHYTON*  
*PURPURIFERUM* (ACROSYMPHYTACEAE, RHODOPHYTA)  
FROM THE CANARY ISLANDS.**

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The gametophytes of *Acrosymphyton purpuriferum* (J. Agardh) Sjöstedt, red purple in colour, gelatinous and lubricous, are to 30 cm in length, irregularly radially branched to the 4th order, with terete main branches to 6 mm in diameter. The higher-order branches are 0.5-1(1.5) mm in diameter with acute apices. Apical cell of indeterminate branches divides transversely to form a central axis. Each axial cell produces a single whorl of 4-5 cortical filaments which are usually pseudodi- or pseudotrivotomously branched. Outer cortical cells are ovoid with floridean hairs and basal cortical cells produce descending rhizoidal filaments. Although this species have been described as monoecious, the plants studied from the Canary Islands are dioecious. Carpogonial and auxiliary cell filaments generally replace cortical fascicles. Carpogonial filaments are pinnate and with a basally coiled trichogone as in other *Acrosymphyton* species. Auxiliary cell filaments are single (very rarely branched) with terminal generative auxiliary cells. One or more outgrowths of the fertilized carpogonium contact terminal cells of the pinnate laterals (nutritive auxiliary cells). From this fusion are produced up to three large connecting filaments. One subspherical gonimoblast is produced from a segment of connecting filament attached to a generative auxiliary cell. The gametophyte has been collected growing in subtidal areas in the Canary Islands, at depths ranging from 3 to 22 m. It is restricted to pebble bottoms or uncolonized rocks just above sand flats.



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**ABSTRACTS**

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