

Put about 2 cm. of water in a flat-bottomed tray. Use seawater if possible - fresh water sometimes causes pigments, especially reds, to run. Use heavy paper or light card for mounting (like filing cards). Submerge a card in the water in the tray. Select a plant, and shake it in a jar of water to remove small mussels, sand grains, and small crustaceans. Lay the seaweed over the card, and persuade it to float into a graceful arrangement. You might want a paintbrush to separate delicate branches or smooth out sheet-like parts. Now, carefully slide arrangement out of the water. This is tricky; if you remove the paper too quickly, the plant may collapse into a shapeless mass.

Cover the seaweed lightly with cloth, muslin or a piece of nylon stocking. Most seaweeds contain a natural

glue. During drying the plant will bind itself to the mounting card, but also to whatever is laid upon it. The layer of cloth or mesh can be carefully removed.

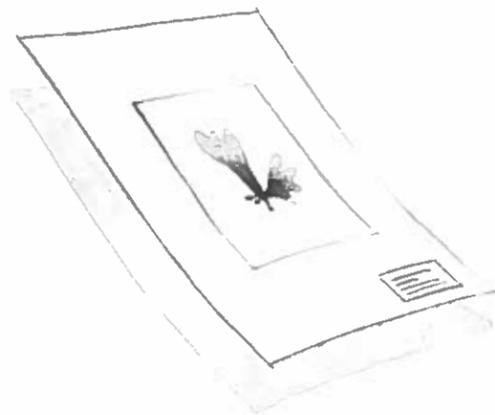
Dry in a plant press for about a week. Our INFO "Collecting Plants" has instructions for building a plant press; you can improvise one by placing the mounted covered seaweed in a thick fold of newspapers or a telephone book, and then piling books or bricks on top. Change the newspapers every day until the seaweed is not cool to your cheek.

For a reference specimen, mount one species per page. Attach the mounting card to a large sheet and label in the lower right hand corner. Frame a mount for a decorative piece. A clear plastic spray will help protect the mounted seaweed.

Mounting a seaweed



Completed dried specimen



You might enjoy:

Seaweeds of Cape Cod and The Island, John Kingsbury (Chatham Press, Inc.: Chatham, Mass., 196

A Guide to the Common Seaweeds of Atlantic Canada, G. Robin South (Breakwater, St. John's, 1981)

Seaweeds of Nova Scotia



Seaweeds are not "weeds" at all. They form the forests and meadows of the sea, and like land plants exhibit great variety of shape, size, and colour. Brown seaweeds (such as kelp and rockweed) are generally large bulky plants of great importance in marine food webs. Under the browns, and in tidepools, are most delicate red and green seaweeds, some sheet-like, some feathery, some stiff and moss-like.

Seaweeds have no true roots, stems, leaves or flowers. Some types grip seashore rocks with a disc or finger-shaped base called a holdfast. They produce no seeds, but release reproductive cells directly into the sea, to be scattered about before settling to grow into new plants.

The sea has seasons, too, and if you visit a rocky shore at low tide

through the year you may notice the shorescape change as reds, browns or greens come and go as the dominant plants. Variety is usu-

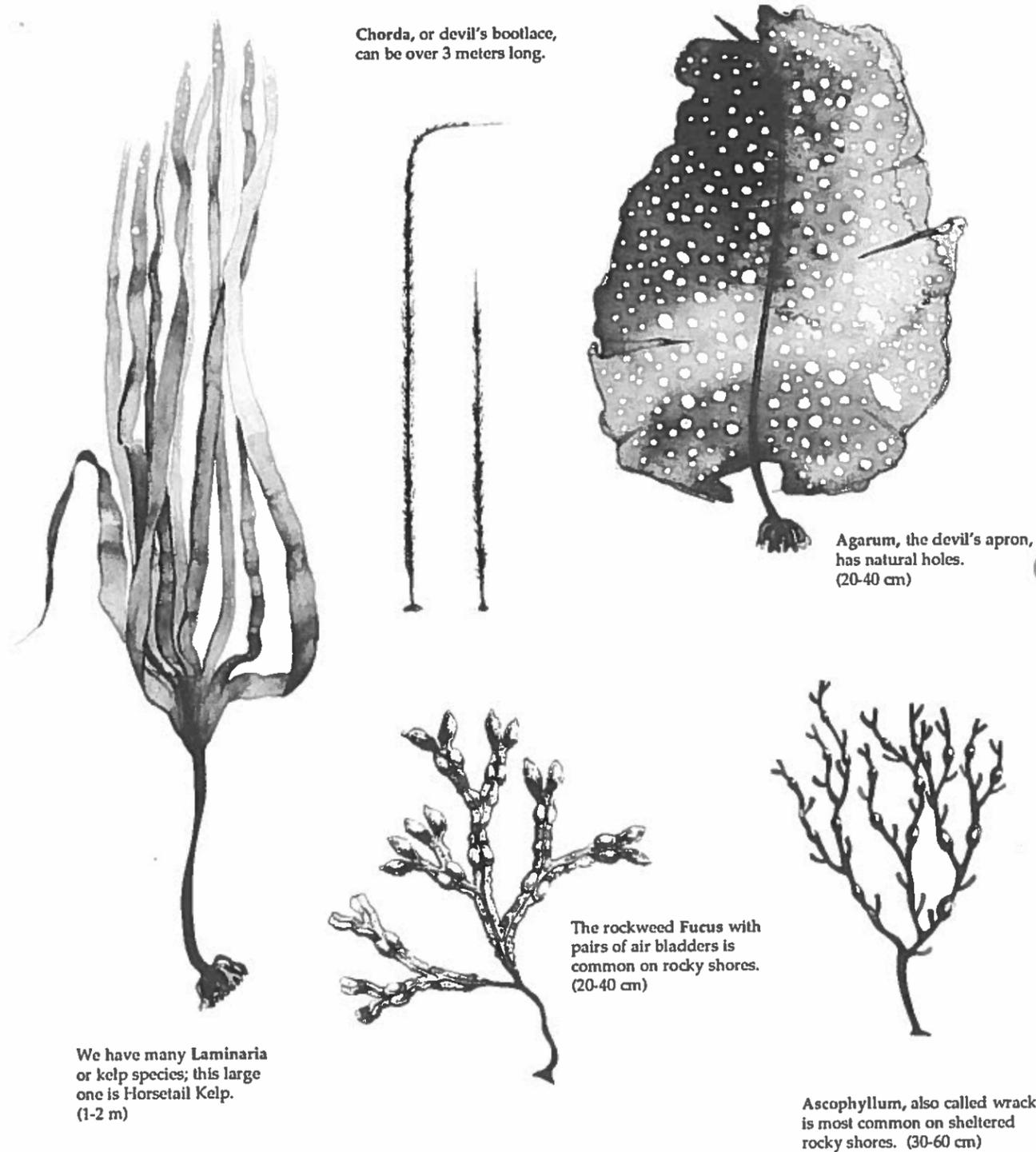
ally greatest in summer, and more types are found near low water mark than high on the shore.

Mounting Seaweeds

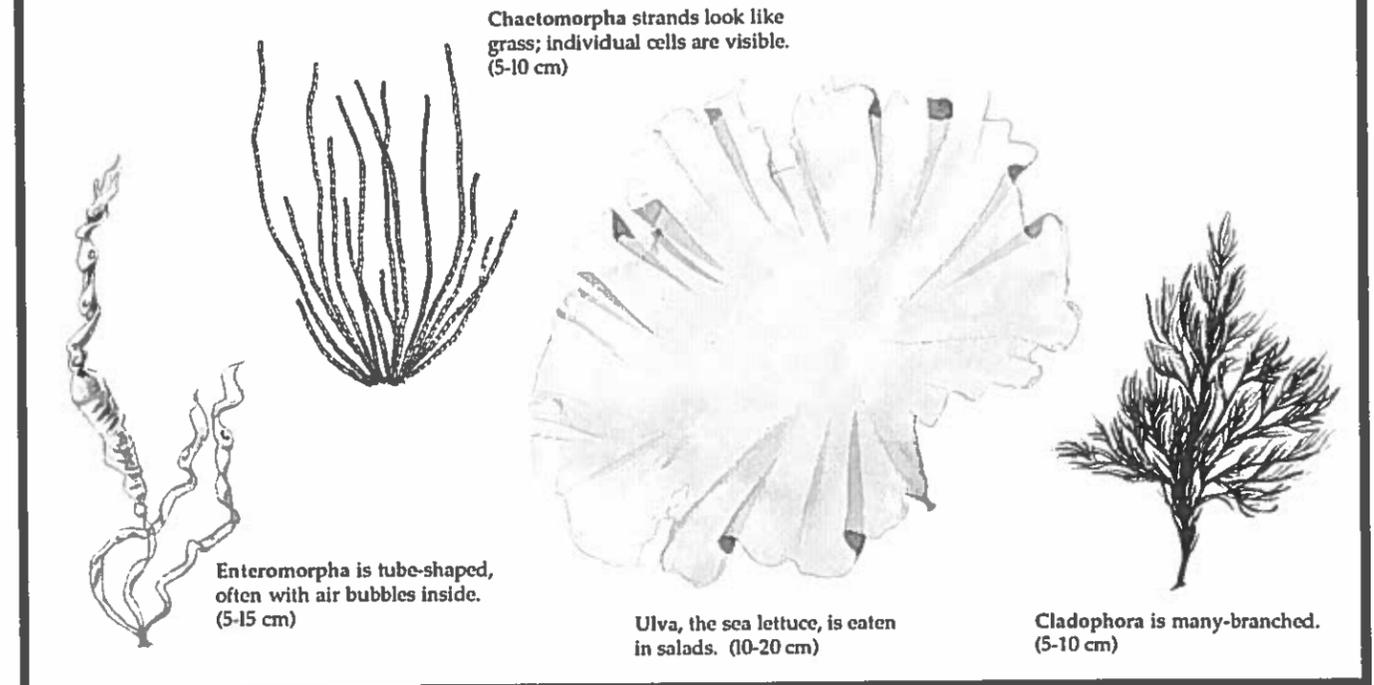
Collect a few well-coloured intact plants. By the end of summer many seaweeds become damaged from the pounding waves and grazing snails, or are covered with growth of other seaweeds. Carry your specimens in a plastic bag or bucket, with a little seawater to keep them moist. Keep specimens from different habitats in different bags, and record date, place and habitat for your labels. Mount the plants within a day, or freeze them for future use.

Seaweeds of Nova Scotia

Browns



Greens



Reds

