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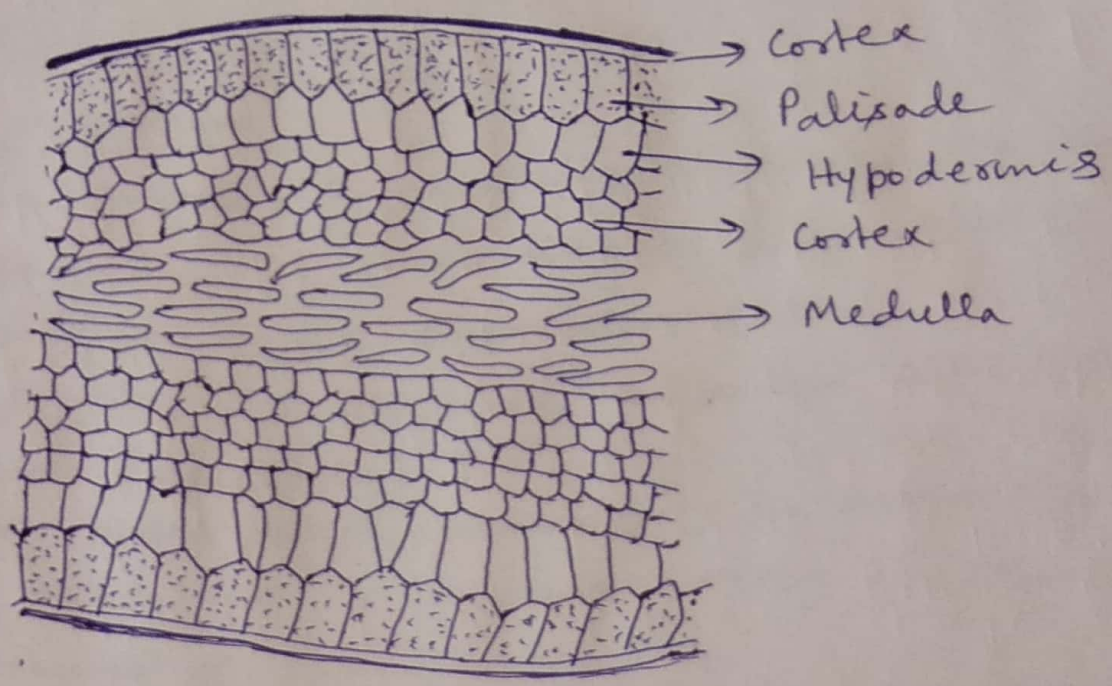
Internal structure of the thallus of Sargassum:

T.S. of thallus of Sargassum shows following structures:

- (i) A peripheral layer of columnar cells without any air spaces between them. The cells of this layer contain abundant plastids. This layer is called palisade layer. Photosynthesis takes place in palisade layer. On the outside, the palisade cells are covered by a mucilaginous cuticle. On the inner side of the palisade layer is a hypodermal layer, consisting of ximilare cells. The cells of both the layers have pits in their walls.
- (ii). Within the hypodermal layer is the cortex, consisting of thick walled polygonal cells. The cortex may be several layers thick. It probably functions as the storage region and plays a mechanical role.

(iii). The central zone of the thallus is called the medulla. The cells in this region are loosely arranged. They are narrow and elongated. The outer cells of the medulla have thick walls, whereas the inner cells have thin walls.

Medulla probably serves as the food conducting region.



( Fig: T. S. of Sargassum thallus )

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