

Canda pecten Thornely, 1907. Tilbrook, 2006, p.54, pl.8C.

Canda pecten Thornely, 1907
Plate 8C

Canda pecten Thornely, 1907: 182, text-Fig. 2.

Canda pecten: Harmer, 1926: 389, Fig. 26, figs 25-28; Liu, 1991: 71.

Canda clypeata: d'Hondt & Gordon, 1996: 75, figs 8a,b.

Canda philippinensis: Lu, 1991: 49, Fig. 4, Fig. 2a,b.

Material examined SBMNH 365093-094, 413-84; NHM 1928.9.13.114, Uraga Channel, off Tokyo, Owston Coll., 54 m; NHM 1928.3.9.208, "Siboga" Station 81, Borneo Bank, Strait of Makassar, 34 m; NHM 1928.3.9.207, "Siboga" Station 77, Borneo Bank, Strait of Makassar, 59 m; NHM 1928.3.9.210, "Siboga" Station 310, Sumbawa, E., 73 m; NHM 1975.7.18.47, 1.5 km E. of Pulau, Putri Ketjil, 5°35'32"S, 106°33'55"E, Java Sea, 33 m; NHM 1942.12.2.91, Madagascar, Admiral Belcher.

Description Colony erect with biserial, keeled branches. Autozooids rectangular (0.30 x 0.15 mm) with parallel-sided lateral walls, gymnocystal area minimal, cryptocyst smooth, well developed proximally, narrow side nearest branch midline, wedge-shaped on other side, widening proximally. Opesia almost triangular, tapering proximally. Scutum wanting. A single short spine on each side of orifice. Large frontal avicularia, single or paired, developed on each branch above a bifurcation, directed obliquely proximally towards branch angle, cystid inflated, rostrum elongate, triangular, rostral rim convex and serrated laterally, with a hooked tip, mandible very narrow, triangular, concave, with a hooked tip. Ovicells with a broad fenestra, occurring in small groups, often with a vestigial avicularium distally. Two axial vibracula, other vibracular chambers triangular in shape, setal groove directed obliquely, setae short, curving across width of the branch.

Remarks *Canda pecten* is characterised by its lack of scutum, its asymmetrical opesia and its large, frontal avicularia above branch bifurcations.

Despite their superficial similarities *Canda pecten* differs from *Canda clypeata* in a number of ways; it lacks scutal spines, a second inner oral spine, and the opesia are smaller and more triangular. The large frontal avicularia also differ. In *Canda pecten* the avicularian rostra are longer and thinner, directed towards the angle of the branch, the mandibular fulcrum away from the branch, its tip arching over towards it, whereas in *Canda clypeata* the rostra are shorter and wider, directed distofrontally or proximofrontally, the mandibular fulcrum nearest the branch, its tip furthest from it.

Harmer (1957: 389) recorded the new variety *Canda pecten* var. *scutata* describing specimens from the Kei Islands, New Guinea and the Loyalty Islands. This variety is identical to *C. pecten* except in its possession of minute scuta, two-thirds the way up the inner marginal edge of the opesia. Gordon (1984: 50, Fig. 13, figs D, E) found this species from the Kermadec Ridge and Liu (1991) from the Nansha Islands. The specimen from Tizard Bank (NHM 1889.8.21.109) Harmer (1957) included in his list of material for this new variety is of a different species altogether.

The material illustrated by d'Hondt & Gordon (1996) as *Canda clypeata* is not Haswell's species as it lacks scuta, instead the material represents *C. pecten*, the asymmetrical opesia can clearly be seen in their Plate.

Distribution Originally described from the coast of Myanmar (Burma) and the Andaman Islands, *Canda pecten* has been found from as far west as Madagascar, through Indonesia (Strait of Makassar and Java Sea) and the tropical Chinese Seas to Japan. In the Solomon Islands this species was only found at West Bay, Russell Islands.

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