

*Celleporaria sibogae* Winston & Heimberg, 1986. Tilbrook, 2006, p.137, pl.24C-D.

***Celleporaria sibogae*** Winston & Heimberg, 1986  
Plate 24C-D

*Celleporaria fusca*: Harmer, 1957 (part): 680.

*Celleporaria sibogae* Winston & Heimberg, 1986: 30, figs 73-78.

*Celleporaria sibogae*: Gordon, 1993a: 338, fig. 16d.

Material examined SBMNH 265335-337, **502-87**; SBMNH 265338-340, **408-84**.

**Description** Colony multilaminar. Autozooids convex, hexagonal to irregularly polygonal (0.45–0.55 x 0.30–0.40 mm), finely nodular in later ontogeny, with up to 10 small, conspicuous marginal pores. Small holes often apparent between neighbouring autozooids in frontally budded laminae. Primary orifice square, though slightly narrower distally, slightly wider than long (ca 0.15 x 0.13 mm), the proximal border shallowly concave, with inconspicuous condyles appearing as slight thickenings of lateral borders. No oral spines. Peristome small most developed proximally, a proximomedial pseudosinus forming with ontogeny. Suboral avicularian rostrum elliptical, the distal tip denticulate, facing laterally, directed frontally, the cystid developing a short apical spike in some zooids. Rarely this avicularium is large, approx. four times the size of normal avicularia. Very small marginal avicularia present distolateral to orifice, single, paired, or lacking, rostrum raised on small cystid, parallel to frontal surface, elongate-oval, complete crossbar, rostral palate and opesia of equal area, proximolaterally directed. Vicarious avicularia sporadic, rostrum smooth, slightly asymmetrical, spatulate and slightly cupped distally, crossbar complete with small columella, rostral palate and opesia of equal area, recumbent on colony surface, randomly directed. Ovicell prominent, globular, occupying entire distal and both lateral borders of orifice, calcified portion thin and relatively smooth.

The material from Sandfly Passage, Nggela Sule appears to be taken from a single, massive, erect (?) colony.

**Remarks** *Celleporaria sibogae* is characterised by its almost square orifice with inconspicuous condyles, dimorphic suboral avicularia, small, distal-oral, marginal avicularia and spatulate vicarious avicularia with a smooth rostrum.

Winston & Heimberg (1986) distinguished *Celleporaria sibogae* from material assigned by Harmer (1957) to *C. fusca* (Busk, 1854) mainly using attributes of the vicarious avicularia. Busk's species, originally described from Bass Strait, has vicarious avicularia on a raised conical cystid, the distal edge of which has a strikingly serrated edge. *C. sibogae* has recumbent vicarious avicularia with a smooth rostrum. Winston & Heimberg (1986) surmised that Harmer (1957) had perhaps included three or more distinguishable species in the material he assigned to *C. fusca*.

It appears that Ryland & Hayward (1992) may have also described *C. fusca* using material belonging to more than one species. They illustrated material with extremely long, smooth, lanceolate vicarious avicularia and lacking marginal avicularia, as well as material with erect, strikingly denticulate, spatulate vicarious avicularia with small, marginal avicularia, under Busk's specific epithet. They do not note the occurrence of both morphs in one colony however. Ryland & Hayward (1992) noted that their Heron Island material was compared with Busk's type material, labelled Cape Capricorn not Bass Strait as published, as well as some of Harmer's material and all was found to be identical. It appears that the confusion over *C. fusca* remains.

**Distribution** Originally described from Indonesia, *Celleporaria sibogae* was found in the Solomon Islands from Sandfly Passage, Nggela Sule, Florida Islands and Taora Passage between Choiseul and Vealaviru. This is only the third record of this species, it also having been recorded from the Philippines by Gordon (1993a).

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