

Celleporaria volsella Tilbrook, 2006. Tilbrook, 2006, p.143, pl.27A-C.

Celleporaria volsella new species
Plate 27A-C

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 265357, **501-87**.

Description Colony multilaminar. Autozooids convex, rectangular to irregularly polygonal (0.50–0.60 x 0.30–0.40 mm), becoming nodular in later ontogeny, with approx. six large marginal pores. Small holes often apparent between neighbouring autozooids in frontally budded laminae. Primary orifice rounded D-shaped, as long as wide (ca 0.14 x 0.14 mm), the proximal border straight, with two, thin, spinous processes curving medially, no obvious condyles. No oral spines. Peristome most developed proximally, a proximomedial pseudosinus next to suboral avicularium. Suboral avicularian rostrum elliptical, its distal tip denticulate, facing laterally, directed frontally, cystid often inflated, developing an apical spike. Small marginal avicularia present lateral to orifice or marginally, single, paired, or lacking, rostrum raised on small cystid, parallel to frontal surface, elongate-oval, with complete crossbar, rostral palate and opesia of equal area, proximally directed. Vicarious avicularia larger than autozooids, the rostrum elongate, almost parallel-sided proximally, cupped and spatulate distally, the distal rim truncated, smooth, with extensive rostral palate, the opesia small, semicircular, crossbar complete, recumbent on colony surface, randomly directed. Ovicell prominent, globular, wider than long, covering distal and both lateral borders of orifice, its opening wide, slightly asymmetrical, the calcified portion thick and granular, slightly obscuring primary orifice.

Etymology From *volsellum*, L. pincers. Named for the shape of the spinous processes in the primary orifice.

Remarks *Celleporaria volsella* is characterised by its primary orifice with its pair of spiny processes, its relatively large suboral avicularia and elongate vicarious avicularia with a smooth, truncated spatulate distal rim.

The spiny processes in the primary orifice of *Celleporaria volsella* are similar to those of *C. erugo* and *C. vagans* (discussed above). However, both these species have three spiny processes, those in *C. erugo* being straight and only the outer two in *C. vagans* curved. *C. volsella* differs from these species in a number of ways: *C. erugo* has smooth frontal calcification and lacks small marginal adventitious avicularia; *C. vagans* has a higher peristome and produces large vicarious avicularia with bi- or tri-lobed, almost palmate, avicularian mandibles. *C. vagans* does produce rarely the small marginal avicularia seen in *C. volsella*.

Celleporaria volsella is also a little similar to *C. desperabilis*, which has relatively large suboral avicularia producing an apical spike, but *C. desperabilis* has a primary orifice more reminiscent of *C. tridenticulata* than *C. volsella* with its three stout “teeth”, which appear to produce a straight proximal border to the orifice. *C. inaudita* has a primary orifice with two spinous processes proximally but unlike *C. volsella* it has shorter, more deeply cupped and erect vicarious avicularia.

Distribution *Celleporaria volsella* is known only from the Solomon Islands where it was found at Anuha Reefs, Anuha Island, Florida Islands.

