

***Chaperiopsis harmeri* sp.nov.**
(Fig. 4B,C)

Chaperia cervicornis: Harmer, 1926: 230, pl.14, fig. 8.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

HOLOTYPE: OMG304963, on *Sargassum* sp.
PARATYPES: QMG304968, on *Sargassum* sp.

DESCRIPTION

Colonies developing small, unilaminar patches. Autozooids oval, small, commonly 0.45 x 0.3mm, with an almost circular opesia comprising just less than half total length; proximal calcification thin and finely granular. There are four (rarely six) distal spines: proximal pair fairly stout, bifurcating three or four times to develop an open-branched antler shape, the tines cylindrical; distal pair shorter and thinner, bifurcated once or twice. At the growing edge some autozooids have a third pair of very thin spines projecting almost horizontally from the distal wall. Occlusor laminae very short, and indistinct; widely spread apart, passing between the bases of the proximal and distal spine on each side. Ovicell a shallow helmet shape, with a very large aperture, above this is a narrow, transverse frontal fenestra. The distal pair of spines curves along the sides of the ovicell. Avicularia rare, shortly columnar, present on the gymnocyst of autozooids succeeding an ovicell, projecting above the ovicell, with a short, proximally-directed mandible.

REMARKS

This is undoubtedly the species described and figured by Harmer (1926) as *C. cervicornis* (Busk). Gordon (1986) remarked that Harmer's specimens, from the Torres Straits, were probably distinct from *C. cervicornis*, which ranges from the Bass Strait and Tasmania, south to New Zealand, and west to the Magellan Strait. *C. cervicornis* has six to eight rather stout, cervicorn spines; the proximal pair are usually broadened with the tines flexed medially and meeting above the frontal membrane.

ETYMOLOGY

For S.F. Harmer.

