

*Crepidacantha poissonii* (Audouin, 1826). Tilbrook, 2006, p. 274, pl.61A-D

**Crepidacantha poissonii** (Audouin, 1826)  
Plate 61A–D

*Flustra poissonii* Audouin, 1826: 240, [Savigny, 1817] pl. 10, figs 5<sup>1</sup>, 5<sup>2</sup>.

*Crepidacantha poissonii*: Harmer, 1957 (part): 981; Brown, 1954: 260; Dumont, 1981: 636; Liu, Yin & Ma, 2001: 674, pl. 71, figs 1–3.

*Crepidacantha carsioseta*: Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001:92, Fig. 16A.

**Type material** Neotype: NHM 2002.7.10.6, (4.P) Ghardaqa (Hurghada), Red Sea, Crossland Coll.  
Neoparatype: NHM 1961.10.30.9, (4.G<sup>3</sup>) Ghardaqa (Hurghada), Red Sea, Crossland Coll.

**Other material examined** SBMNH 365755, **506–87**; NHM (unregistered, SEM 58) Port Vila Harbour, Vanuatu.

**Description** Colony encrusting, unilaminar. Autozooids hexagonal (0.40–0.50 x 0.30–0.40 mm), separated by deep grooves. Frontal shield flattened. Primary orifice distinctly trifoliate, longer than wide (ca 0.10 x 0.85 mm), with conspicuous lateral processes, condyles acute, triangular, proximal border produced as a convex lip, twice as wide as long, as wide as the distance between the condyles, almost straight along its distal edge. A median pointed projection produced frontally on distal rim of primary orifice. Avicularia paired, one slightly more distal than the other, proximolateral to each proximal corner of primary orifice, rostrum elongate triangular, open ended, no crossbar, directed medially, mandibles setiform, laying parallel to one another transversely across frontal shield. Ovicell as wide as long, smooth frontal area flattened apart from a raised median ridge, crescentic area of pores around three-quarters circumference of distal edge, i.e. one orifice length from ovicell opening.

**Remarks** *Crepidacantha poissonii* is characterised by its distinctly trifoliate primary orifice with pointed distal process, its medially directed avicularia and its ovicell, with a median ridge and crescent of pores around the distal end. The nomination here of neotype material for Audouin's *Flustra poissonii* not only stabilises the concept of this species but also the genus, it being the nominated type species.

*Crepidacantha poissonii* differs from *C. craticula* in having a more pronounced proximal lip to the orifice and an ovicell, with a median ridge and longer crescent of pores located more distally from the ovicell opening.

*Crepidacantha poissonii* was mistakenly identified as *C. carsioseta* Winston & Heimberg, 1986 by Tilbrook *et al.* (2001). *C. poissonii* differs from that species in having a more obviously trifoliate orifice, with a more pronounced proximal lip, a less-globular ovicell, with a longer porous crescent, and the complete lack of suboral umbo. This last feature was prominent in the material described by Winston & Heimberg (1986) for their new species but was not noted in either of its subsequent records, i.e. Tilbrook *et al.* (2001) and Ryland & Hayward (1992) (= *C. craticula*).

The neoparatype specimen of *Crepidacantha poissonii* is being overgrown by *Poricella spathulata* (the species under which the specimen is registered).

**Distribution** *Crepidacantha poissonii* was originally described from the Egyptian Red Sea but has subsequently been assigned a wider distribution. A thorough re-examination of material attributed to Audouin's species should be carried in comparison with the neotypes nominated here to ascertain its true geographic distribution. This species is known without doubt only from the Red Sea, South China Sea, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, where a single, small colony was found from Linggatu Cove, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands.

