

Bryopesanser capitaneus new species
Plates 55E; 56D-F

Escharina pesanseris: Harmer, 1957 (part): 998, pl. 67, fig. 13.

Perigastrella sp. Lu, 1991: 64, pl. 16, fig. 4a,b.

Type material Holotype: NHM 2000.2.23.8, (56.E) "Siboga" Station 80, Borneo Bank, Strait of Makassar, 40-50 m.

Other material examined SBMNH 365721, **401-87**.

Description Colony encrusting. Autozooids large (0.80–1.00 x 0.60–0.80 mm), hexagonal or irregularly polygonal, distinct, separated by shallow grooves. Frontal shield almost smooth, slightly convex, evenly perforated with numerous small multiporous pores, with paired areolae laterally or proximally. Primary orifice rounded D-shaped, slightly longer than wide (ca 0.13 x 0.11 mm), anter deeply arched, proximal border straight or slightly concave, condyles minutely denticulate, shallow, sinus drop-shaped, wider than long. Seven evenly spaced oral spines. Proximal peristome developed into a raised, spire-like median mucro with ontogeny. Avicularia originating lateral to most proximal pair of spines, rostra medium-sized, open-ended distally, crossbar complete, distomedially directed, mandibles fan-shaped. Ovicell hyperstomial, with raised process frontally. Ovicellate zooids with six oral spines, the most distal pair incorporated into ovicell. Ancestrula as long as wide (ca 0.40 x 0.40 mm), with ten spines, five closely-spaced distally, five widely-spaced around proximal, opesia occupying less than one quarter of frontal surface.

Etymology From *capitaneus*, L. large. Named for the large size of its autozooids.

Remarks *Bryopesanser capitaneus* is characterised by its large autozooids, the largest of any known species of *Bryopesanser*, its primary orifice morphology, with slightly concave proximal border, minutely denticulate shallow condyles, wider than long sinus, and the peristome developed into a proximal mucro. The position of the avicularia is also characteristic, as is their distomedial orientation. *B. capitaneus* produces fertile colonies of less than ten zooids, comparable with most other species of *Bryopesanser* apart from *B. latesco* that is.

Bryopesanser capitaneus differs from *B. pesanseris* in the large size of its autozooids and the multiporous frontal pores it produces. While *B. capitaneus* develops a peristomial umbo, similar to *B. pesanseris*, it differs from *B. latesco*, which produces a flared peristome. The production of multiporous frontal pores is not unique to *B. capitaneus* as three other *Bryopesanser* species develop them. However, this pore morphology in conjunction with attributes of the primary orifice, especially the morphology of the condyles, enables these species to be distinguished.

The type specimen of *Bryopesanser capitaneus* was figured by Harmer (1957) and shows the ancestrula.

Distribution *Bryopesanser capitaneus* is found in the Strait of Makassar, Nansha Sea and the Solomon Islands. In the Solomon Islands a single colony of *B. capitaneus* was found at Anuha Reefs, Anuha Island, Florida Islands.

