

Hippopodina pulcherrima (Canu & Bassler, 1928). Tilbrook, 1999, p.452, fig. 1g,h.

***Hippopodina pulcherrima* (Canu & Bassler)**

(Fig. 1g, h)

Lepralia pulcherrima Canu & Bassler, 1928: 25, 82, pl.6, figs 1,2.

Hippopodina feegeensis Levinsen, 1909 (in part): 353, pl.24, fig. 3d; Marcus, 1937 (in part): 116; Osburn, 1940 (in part): 412, pl.7, figs 7,8; Harmer, 1957 (in part): 974, pl.67, fig. 7; Banta & Carson, 1977 (in part): 413, fig. 9B.

Material

NHM 1931.5.2.16., W. Indies, Capt. A. K. Totton. (exc. USNM); NHM 1934.8.8.1., Caracas Bay, Curaçao. Coll. C. J. van der Horst, 10.4.1920. Presented by R. C. Osburn; Ghardaq 9B, Red Sea. Siboga Coll.

Description

Colony encrusting. Autozooids lightly calcified, generally rectangular, separated by well-defined grooves. Frontal wall convex, tuberculate, evenly perforated with numerous small pores. Primary orifice hoof-shaped; rounded distally, with slightly concave proximal margin; two lateral condyles. Adventitious avicularia generally single, often paired and of uneven lengths, positioned proximo-laterally to orifice, orientated proximo-medially; rostra raised; mandible setiform; crossbar complete. Ovicells large, lightly calcified, rounded, evenly perforate, embedded in concavity on frontal wall of distal zooid; no orifice dimorphism, operculum closes orifice. Ovicellate zooids bear avicularia.

Measurements (mean \pm standard deviation, mm):

Curaçao. NHM 1934.8.8.1. ($n = 20$), autozooid length 1.14 ± 0.11 ; width 0.76 ± 0.10 ; orifice length 0.23 ± 0.06 ; width 0.19 ± 0.00 ; avicularia length 0.37 ± 0.05 .

Remarks

This species is characterized by the proximo medial orientation of the setiform avicularia, the presence of avicularia on ovicellate zooids and the lack of any pronounced dimorphism between the orifices of autozooids and ovicellate zooids.

Osburn's (1940) description of *H. feegeensis* material from the West Indies and Brazil is undoubtedly referring to this species. Banta & Carson (1977) described two morphotypes of *Hippopodina feegeensis*, expressing the opinion that more than one species may be involved; their figure of a specimen from Portete, on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, shows *H. pulcherrima*.

Banta & Carson (1977) noted that their Caribbean specimen, i.e. *Hippopodina pulcherrima*, may be related to *Cosciniopsis ambita* Hayward, 1974 (*Cosciniopsis* sp. Harmelin, 1968) from the Mediterranean. They distinguished *C. ambita* from *H. pulcherrima* in possessing one rather than two avicularia, and in lacking pores on

the frontal wall and the ovicell. They stated that *C. ambita* belonged better in *Hippopodina* Levinsen, 1909 rather than *Cosciniopsis* Canu & Bassler, 1927, reporting that the type of *Cosciniopsis*, *C. coelatus* Canu & Bassler, 1927, lacks avicularia whilst possessing a perforate frontal wall.

Distribution

This species has been described from the Caribbean and tropical western Atlantic (Canu & Bassler, 1928; Osburn, 1940; Banta & Carson, 1977) but also from the Red Sea (Harmer, 1957).

