

Hippopodina tahitiensis (Leca & d'Hondt, 1993). Tilbrook, 1999, p. 455, fig. 2b,d,f

Hippopodina viriosa sp. nov.

(Fig. 2b, d, f)

Lepralia feegeensis MacGillivray, 1891 (in part): 81, pl.10, fig. 2.

Hippopodina feegeensis Levinsen, 1909 (in part): 353, pl.24, fig. 3b; Marcus, 1937 (in part): 116; Osburn, 1940 (in part): 412; Harmer, 1957 (in part): 974.

Material

HOLOTYPE: NHM 1997.10.6.20., Magnetic Island, Townsville, Queensland, Australia.

Other material: NHM 1929.4.26.173(? part), Gorgona 3, Colombia. St. George Coll.; NHM 1938.5.2.5., on coral, India. Dr G. J. Hindle; NHM 1997.10.6.70., Vila Water-front, Efate Id, Vanuatu; NHM 1997.10.6.72., Magnetic Island, Townsville, Queensland, Australia.

Etymology

viriosus, L., robust – referring to the stout avicularia.

Description

Colony encrusting. Autozooids lightly calcified, generally rectangular, separated by shallow grooves. Frontal wall slightly convex, tuberculate, evenly perforated with medium pores. Primary orifice hoof-shaped; rounded distally, wider than the straight proximal margin; two lateral condyles. Adventitious avicularia paired or single, though sometimes lacking from large areas, positioned distal to orifice, disto-medially directed; rostra short, raised distally; mandible short, triangular; 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 often bear avicularia similar to those already described.

Measurements (mean \pm standard deviation, mm):

Australia. NHM 1997.10.6.20. ($n=30$), autozooid

length 1.02 ± 0.11 ; width 0.59 ± 0.08 ; orifice length 0.22 ± 0.1 ; width 0.20 ± 0.01 ; avicularia length 0.16 ± 0.01 .

Colombia. NHM 1929.4.26.173. ($n=20$), autozooid length 1.10 ± 0.10 ; width 0.46 ± 0.06 ; orifice length 0.22 ± 0.00 ; width 0.17 ± 0.01 ; avicularia length 0.17 ± 0.01 .

India. NHM 1938.5.2.5. ($n=11$), autozooid length 0.91 ± 0.06 ; width 0.64 ± 0.11 ; orifice length 0.22 ± 0.1 ; width 0.19 ± 0.01 ; ($n=8$), avicularia length 0.17 ± 0.01 .

Remarks

The most distinguishing features of this species are the adventitious avicularia, their short, stout appearance, distal positioning and direction. Autozooids are generally twice as long as wide.

MacGillivray (1891) described and figured a specimen of this species from Nichol Bay, NW Australia.

Distribution

This species appears to have an almost circum-global tropical distribution, from the Great Barrier Reef and Vanuatu to Singapore (Harmer, 1957), India, Africa (Osburn, 1940), Colombia and the West Indies (Osburn, 1940).

