

Monoporella fimbriata Canu & Bassler, 1929. Tilbrook, 2006, p.71, fig.11C-D.

Monoporella fimbriata Canu & Bassler, 1927
Plate 11C-D

Monoporella fimbriata Canu & Bassler, 1927b: 4, Fig. 1, Fig. 2.

Monoporella fimbriata: Canu & Bassler, 1929: 156, Fig. 17, figs. 6-11.

Monoporella nodulifera: Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 52, Fig. 19E,F.

Material examined SBMNH 365118, **501-87**; SBMNH 365119, **505-87**; SBMNH 365120, **411-84**; NHM 2003.5.13.9, Solomon Islands (no loc.); NHM 1931.12.30.57, "Albatross" Station 5151, off Sirun Island, Tawi-tawi Islands, Philippines, 24 fms (Holotype locality); NHM 1998.8.4.304, Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu, 4-5 m.

Description Colony encrusting, unilaminar. Autozooids large (ca 0.70-0.90 x 0.50-0.70 mm), almost hexagonal, flat, distinct, separated by shallow grooves; frontal area wholly covered by cryptocystal wall, apart from the operculum. Cryptocyst finely granular, perforated by numerous pores (50-70), raised proximal to the orifice, slightly convex medially, leaving a furrow distally and a raised lateral wall; a small round opesiule on each side, usually unequal in size, proximal to the corners of the orifice, which becomes thicker during ontogeny. Cryptocyst covered by a thick, translucent (when dried), brownish-coloured frontal membrane. Orifice rounded, almost circular, a straight proximal edge, with a slightly raised median lip dividing two small lateral condyles, and denticulate distal border. Two to four oral spines distally, blackish-brown in colour. No avicularia. Ovicells very large, hyperstomial, covering the greater part of the distal autozoid, finely granular, imperforate but with six pores distally and a large foramen on each side running distally along the cryptocystal cavity of the neighbouring autozooids; closed by the maternal operculum. Ancestrula morphologically identical to succeeding autozooids but approx. half size, with two oral spines.

Remarks *Monoporella fimbriata* is similar in appearance to *M. nodulifera*. However, the greater number of frontal pores, and more-rounded aperture with its denticulate distal border distinguish *M. fimbriata* from *M. nodulifera*. It also lacks the oral "nodules" seen in *M. nodulifera*.

Canu & Bassler (1929) described *Monoporella fimbriata* more fully than they had previously (Canu & Bassler, 1927b) when it was only noted briefly in a plate legend. They also went on to describe two varieties of *M. fimbriata*, var. *crassa* and var. *carinifera*, the former being larger and more thickly calcified, the latter with slightly narrower zooids and a median ridge on the cryptocyst (see Hayami, 1975: Fig. 18, Fig. 1). Re-examination of topotype material of var. *crassa* (NHM 1931.12.30.58) from Jolo Light shows that it differs from *Monoporella fimbriata* in its lack of a denticulate distal-oral border, its more rounded aperture and more numerous (70-90), smaller frontal pores. These differences are sufficient to raise this variety to full specific status, as *Monoporella crassa* Canu & Bassler, 1929. No type material of var. *carinifera* was readily available for examination so its status must remain unresolved; however, its status as a junior synonym of *M. nodulifera* must be questioned in light of the above discussion (see *Remarks* for *M. nodulifera*).

Distribution Originally described from the Philippines, this is only the third occasion that *Monoporella fimbriata* has been recorded. Tilbrook *et al* (2001) mistakenly recorded this species as *M. nodulifera* from Vanuatu. In the Solomon Islands it was found encrusting small coral debris at off Mbanika Island, Russell Islands and off Anuha Island, Florida Islands.

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