

Schizoporella errata (Waters, 1878). Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.80, fig.15B.

SCHIZOPORELLA ERRATA (WATERS)
(Fig. 15B)

Lepralia errata Waters, 1878: 11, pl. 1, fig. 9.

Schizoporella errata: Hayward & Ryland, 1979: 170,
fig. 68; Brock, 1985: 46, fig. 2C; Gordon & Mawatari,
1992: 31, pl. 9, fig. B.

Description

Colony encrusting, unilaminar or multilaminar, or developing erect, foliaceous, branched or cylindrical growth; whitish-pink to reddish-brown in life. Autozooids rectangular or lozenge-shaped, flat or slightly convex, separated by shallow grooves, in linear series; in multilaminar colonies, more disorientated in frontally budded additional layers. Frontal shield evenly perforated by numerous round pores, each in a shallow depression. Primary orifice slightly wider than long, appearing almost circular; with broad and shallow U-shaped median sinus. No oral spines. Adventitious avicularium single, situated lateral to the orifice and level with the proximal border or sinus; cystid prominent, mandible acute triangular, angled to frontal plane, distolaterally orientated. Ovicells prominent, globular, regularly perforated.

Remarks

Schizoporella errata is a well-known fouling species with many records from harbour installations or the hulls of ships. Compared with many other fouling community species *S. errata* displays a rather catholic choice of substratum, from pier pilings and shell, to algae and mangroves. Gordon & Mawatari (1992) document its distribution in New Zealand and the Pacific, dating the first record in New Zealand at about 1960. The increase in cruise-liner traffic to Vanuatu over the last 20 years or so may have promoted the introduction of this species (as well as others) from other localities in the Southwest Pacific area.

Distribution

Schizoporella errata is a widespread warm temperate-subtropical species. Originally described from Naples, Italy, it is found throughout the Mediterranean, West Africa, eastern Canada, eastern coasts of the Americas, from North Carolina through the Caribbean to Brazil, Pacific coast of North America, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, South Australia, and New Zealand. It was found several times in Port Vila Harbour, on old wall tiles.

