

STYLOPOMA PALMULA SP. NOV.

(Fig. 10A-C)

Material

Holotype: NHM 1999.4.11.42, Jedan, Aru Islands, 13 m.

Description

Colony an encrusting, multilaminar sheet. Autozooids irregularly polygonal or hexagonal, only slightly convex, separated by distinct grooves. Frontal shield evenly perforated by round pores (20–40), each set in a depression; the marginal pores are indistinct; lateral walls distinct. Primary orifice wider than long, D-shaped, the straight proximal border with a wide, U- or saucer-shaped median sinus; condyles small, smooth, almost square, but occupying only two-thirds of the proximal border. Two adventitious avicularia per autozoid, always lateral to the orifice, with others elsewhere on the frontal shield; rostrum inclined to frontal plane, distally directed near orifice, randomly directed elsewhere; mandible short, triangular; cross-bar complete. Vicarious avicularia not observed. Ovicells prominent, flattened frontally, more densely porous than frontal shield, with a crescentic aperture and a split proximal labellum which is not visible in frontal view, overhanging and obscuring the orifice of the maternal zoid.

Measurements

Holotype: means and standard deviations, mm ($n = 30$).

Autozoid: length, 0.45 ± 0.05 ; width, 0.34 ± 0.05 .

Orifice: length, 0.07 ± 0.00 ; width, 0.11 ± 0.00 .

Sinus length, 0.04 ± 0.00 .

Avicularium: length, 0.11 ± 0.00 ($n = 15$); width, 0.05 ± 0.00 ($n = 15$).

Etymology

From *palmula*, L. – blade of an oar. Named after the paddle-like appearance of its small orificial condyles.

Remarks

Stylopoma palmula sp. nov. is characterized by its very wide sinus and very small, smooth, square condyles, its small number of frontal pores, the position and shape of the oral avicularia and the shape of the ovicell aperture. It is most similar to *S. fastigatum* sp. nov. and *S. herodias*. It differs from *S. herodias* in having fewer frontal pores, more acutely triangular lateral-oral avicularia and a crescentic ovicell aperture. *Stylopoma palmula* sp. nov. differs from *S. fastigatum* sp. nov. in the shape of its orificial condyles and the shape of the ovicell aperture, as well as its preponderance of frontal adventitious avicularia.

Distribution

Stylopoma palmula sp. nov. is known only from the Aru Islands, on the edge of the Banda Sea.

