

Stylopoma schizostoma (MacGillivray, 1869). Tilbrook, 2001, p.10, fig.4A-E.

STYLOPOMA SCHIZOSTOMA (MACGILLIVRAY, 1869)

(Fig. 4A–E)

Lepralia schizostoma MacGillivray, 1869: 135.

Not *Stylopoma schizostoma*: Hastings, 1932: 420, text figs 8A–F, 9.

Material

Material examined: NHM 1897.5.1.764, Port Phillip Heads, Victoria, Australia. J.B.W. Coll.; NHM 1897.5.1.782, Port Phillip Heads, Victoria, Australia. J.B.W. Coll.; NHM 1888.11.14.421, Port Phillip Heads, Victoria, Australia; NHM 1899.12.8.7, Port Phillip Heads, Victoria, Australia; AM E773, Port Phillip, Victoria; AM G4720, South Australia; AM U489, Port Phillip, Victoria; AM U2198, Port Iken; AM G4706 (no locality).

Description

Colony an extensive, encrusting sheet, unilaminar to multilaminar. Autozooids irregularly polygonal or hexagonal, slightly convex, separated by distinct grooves. Frontal shield evenly perforated by small round pores (70–80), each set in a depression, surrounded by a rim of thickened calcification, may bear small spinules; the marginal pores are larger but generally indistinct; with distinct raised lateral walls; central umbo often produced on many autozooids. Primary orifice wider than long, D-shaped, the straight proximal border with a slit-like median sinus; denticulate, rectangular condyles, occupying the majority of the proximal border each side of the sinus and may taper off medially into it. Adventitious avicularia mostly lacking, but sometimes present on the frontal shield, with a large, rounded, raised cystid and a squat, rounded triangular mandible almost perpendicular to frontal plane; often on autozooids surrounding ovicells. Vicarious avicularia not observed. Ovicells prominent, flattened, densely porous with an oval aperture and split proximal labellum, not visible in frontal view, overhanging and obscuring the orifice of the maternal zooid. Five-zooid ancestrular complex.

Measurements

NHM 1897.5.1.764, means and standard deviations, mm ($n = 30$).

Autozooid: length, 0.53 ± 0.03 ; width, 0.33 ± 0.09 .

Orifice: length, 0.09 ± 0.00 ; width, 0.13 ± 0.00 .

Sinus length, 0.05 ± 0.00 .

Avicularium: length, ~ 0.20 ; width, ~ 0.16 .

Remarks

Although MacGillivray's (1869) material was unavailable for examination, the material described above, distinct from all other species treated here, is attributed with confidence to *Stylopoma schizostoma*. All of the material originates from close to the type locality, viz. Williamstown, near Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. In the original description MacGillivray (1869) mentions the shape of the primary orifice: "semi-circular above, lower lip straight, with a deep narrow slit in the middle". He also describes the central umbo on the frontal shield, noting "surface granular, granulation usually larger and closer about the middle of the cell". Both features are readily seen in the material examined.

Stylopoma schizostoma has a primary orifice very similar to that of *S. duboisii* and, to a lesser extent, *S. velatum* sp. nov. However, the shape of its adventitious avicularia and the ovicell aperture and labellum distinguish this species from all other Indo-West Pacific species of *Stylopoma*.

Many records have been attributed to MacGillivray's species, e.g. Hastings (1932), but most are here assigned to species other than *Stylopoma schizostoma*, such as *S. curvabile* sp. nov. and *S. amboyna* sp. nov. For this reason only MacGillivray's (1869) original description has been cited. All other previous accounts must be re-examined.

Distribution

Stylopoma schizostoma is the most southern species of *Stylopoma*, but although it has been cited as occurring elsewhere it is known with certainty only from around Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, at almost 40° S.

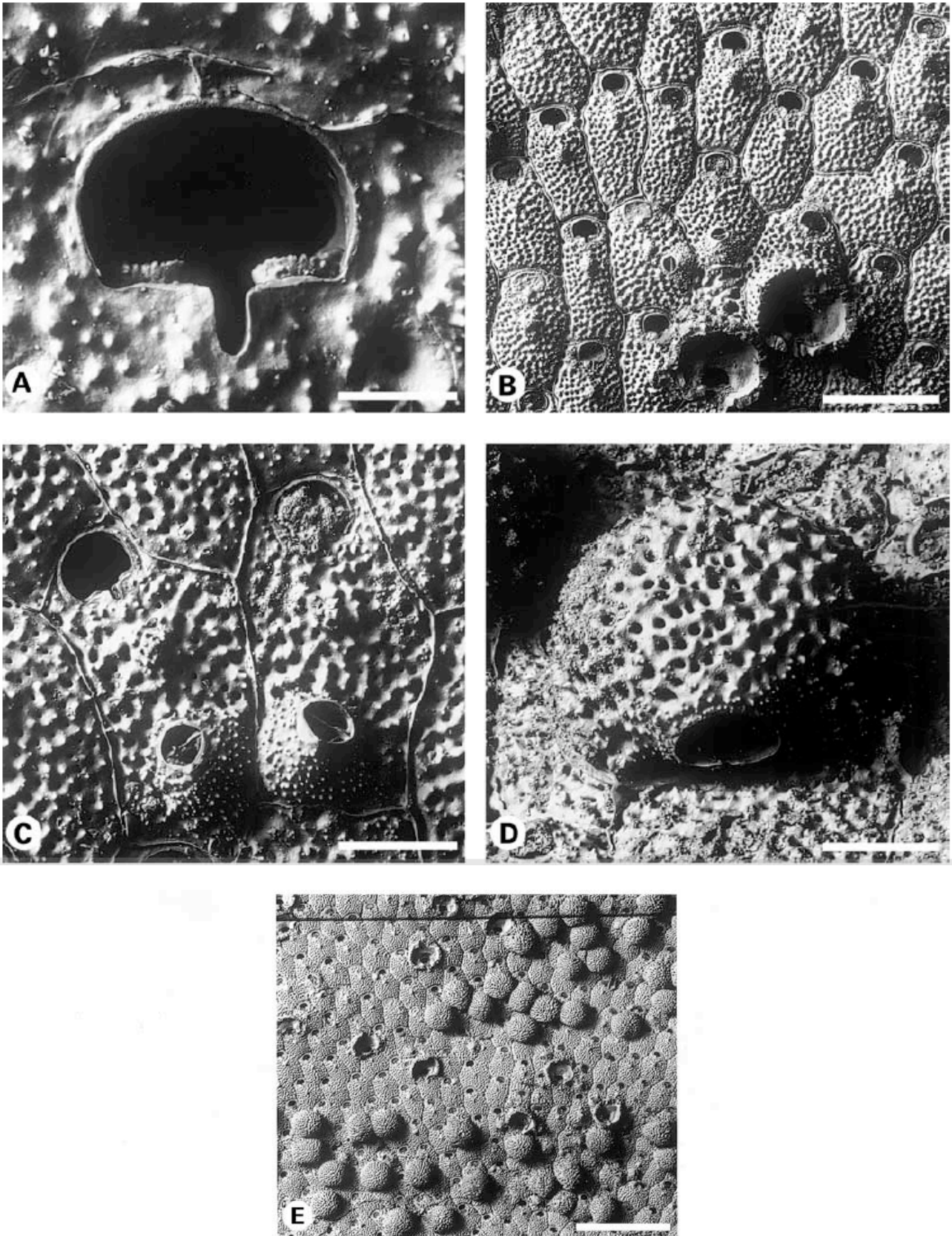


Figure 4. A–E, *Stylopoma schizostoma* (MacGillivray). A, primary orifice, note denticulate articular condyles; B, group of autozooids, two avicularia and two broken ovicells; C, close-up, two autozooids with large adventitious avicularia; D, ovicell, showing an oval aperture and split proximal labellum; E, view of colony, showing the banded arrangement of ovicells over its area. Scale bars: A=0.05 mm; B=0.50 mm; C=0.15 mm; D=0.15 mm; E=2.50 mm.