

STYLOPOMA VILAENSIS SP. NOV.
(Fig. 12A-C)

Material

Holotype: NHM 1998.8.4.9, Iririki Island, Vanuatu. 1–2 m. 9.11.92.

Paratypes: NHM 1998.8.4.128, Port Vila, Efate, Vanuatu; NHM 1998.8.4.7, Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu.

Other material examined: NHM 1999.4.11.31, East Timor, Indonesia. 0–54 m.

Description

Colony an encrusting sheet, multilaminar. Autozooids irregularly polygonal or hexagonal, slightly convex, separated by distinct grooves. Frontal shield evenly perforated by small round pores (20–40), each set in a large depression, surrounded by a sharp rim of thickened calcification; the marginal pores are larger, not set in a depression and so are more distinct; lateral walls distinct. Primary orifice wider than long, D-shaped, the straight proximal border with a small V-shaped median sinus; condyles smooth, distinct, unlippered, occupying the majority of the proximal border each side of the sinus and tapering off medially into it, giving the proximal edge of the orifice a Y-shaped appearance. One adventitious avicularium (often two) proximo-lateral to the orifice, rostrum often inclined to frontal plane, disto-laterally directed; mandible short, slightly acute, triangular; crossbar complete. Additional adventitious avicularia sometimes present elsewhere on the frontal shield similar in shape and size to those just described. Vicarious avicularia also present, as large as autozooids, with a broadly spatulate mandible distally directed. Ovicells prominent, flattened, densely porous with crescentic aperture and entire proximal labellum, with no visible suture line; neither visible in frontal view.

Measurements

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

Autozoid: length, 0.58 ± 0.10 ; width, 0.41 ± 0.09 .

Orifice: length, 0.08 ± 0.00 ; width, 0.13 ± 0.00 .

Sinus length, 0.04 ± 0.00 .

Avicularium: length, 0.07 ± 0.00 ($n = 10$); width, 0.05 ± 0.00 ($n = 10$).

Etymology

Named after Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu.

Remarks

Stylopoma vilaensis sp. nov. is characterized by its orifice shape, the smooth, rectangular, tapering condyles, the shape of the sinus and the relative paucity of pores in its frontal shield.

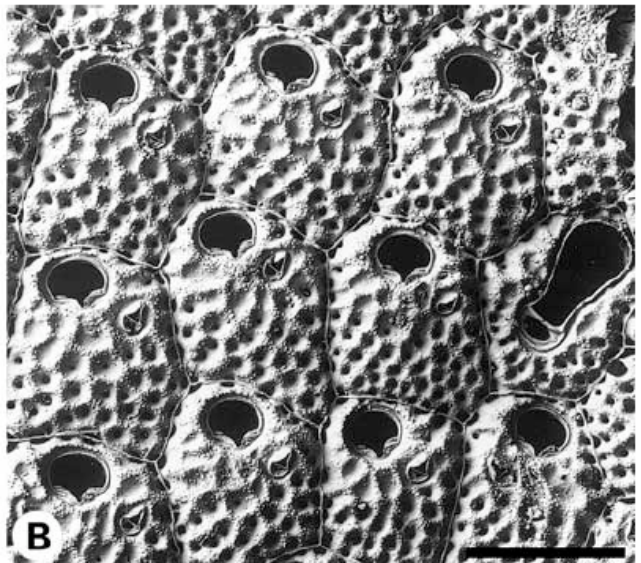
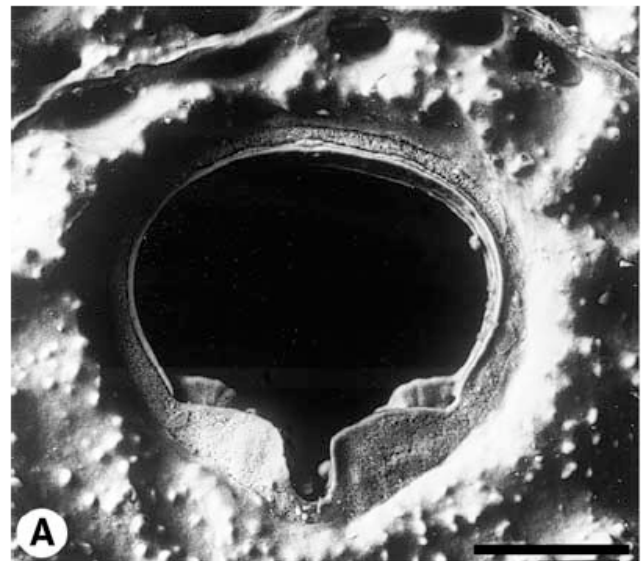
This species is similar to *S. magnistilla* sp. nov. but it differs in several features: the orifice in *S.*

magnistilla sp. nov. is larger than *S. vilaensis* sp. nov., has deeper condyles with frontally pointing lips and a median sinus with a proximal expansion.

Scholtz (1991) described a species he referred to as *Stylopoma* aff. *parviporosa*. His description agrees well with several characteristics of both *S. vilaensis* sp. nov. and *S. magnistilla* sp. nov., namely, the number of pores in the frontal shield, the smooth orificial condyles and the shape of its ovicellular aperture and labellum. However, one cannot be certain which species Scholtz (1991) was describing without re-examination of his material.

Distribution

Stylopoma vilaensis sp. nov. has been found from localities within Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu, where it was quite common, and from Indonesia (see companion paper).



Stylopoma vilaensis Tilbrook, 2001, p.29, fig. 12A-C.

