

*Steginoporella crassa* Haswell, 1880. Tilbrook, 2006, p.82, Pl.13C-E.

***Steginoporella crassa*** (Haswell, 1880)  
Plate 13C-E

*Biflustra crassa* Haswell, 1880: 38, Fig. 1, Fig. 8.

*Steginoporella magnilabris*: Harmer, 1926 (part): 277; Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 240, Fig. 10b.

Type material      Cotype: NHM 1910.6.16.3, Percy Island, Queensland.

Other material examined      SBMNH 365152-155, **501-87**; SBMNH 365156-157, **401-84**; SBMNH 365158, **410-84**; SBMNH 365159, **403-84**; SBMNH 365160-161, **406-84**; SBMNH 365162, **413-84**; NHM 1882.2.23.443-447, Port Molle, Queensland, "Alert", 12-20 fms; NHM 1994.8.24.15, Station 23, Heron Island, Hayward Coll.; NHM 1993.7.26.49-51, Station 24, Heron Island, Hayward Coll.

Description      Colony forming flat, encrusting sheets. Autozooids large (0.80 x 0.65 mm) rounded distally, straight or concave proximally, distinct. Frontal area covered by thick, opaque membrane, horn-coloured, bordered by a raised crenulated mural rim. A-zooids with D-shaped operculum, as wide as zooid, almost half as long, orange-brown V-shaped sclerite and a submarginal series of approx. 12, small teeth on inner surface. B-zooids with much larger, squared operculum, wider proximally than distally, as wide as zooid over 60% of length, dark orange-brown wishbone-shaped sclerite and a submarginal series of approximately ten conspicuous, stout, large teeth on inner surface. Cryptocyst occupying about half total length of autozooid, central portion flat, smooth, with numerous fine perforations, distal wall descending vertically to basal wall approximately halfway along its length, visible when viewed basally. Polypide tube rounded, situated centrally and vertically in this distal wall, not visible in frontal view. Distal edge of frontal cryptocyst, immediately above polypide tube, is strongly flared, as a concave, deeply cupped process with a large pair of robust marginal flanges. Gymnocyst most prominent as a smooth, raised distal margin surrounding and supporting operculum, ending at lateral opercular condyles, below which is a broad "oral shelf".

Remarks      *Steginoporella crassa* is characterised by its extremely robust-looking median process and distinct A- and B-zooids. The opercula of A-zooids contain V-shaped sclerites; the sclerites of the B-zooids are darker and wishbone-shaped.

Distribution      *Steginoporella crassa* was originally described from off Queensland, but it was thought to be a junior synonym of Busk's *S. magnilabris* by Harmer (1900, 1926) and has remained as such until now. In the Solomon Islands ten colonies of *S. crassa* were found from Guadalcanal and the Florida and Russell Islands. Its record from Heron Island, southern Great Barrier Reef, however, infers that it is likely to be commoner in the area of the Coral Sea than previously thought.

