STEGINOPORELLA JELLYAE NOM. NOV.
(Fig. 6B,D)

Steganoporella lateralis: Harmer, 1900: 242, pl. 12, fig. 1; pl. 13, figs 19, 20, 27; Levinsen, 1909: 168, pl. 5, fig. 7; Harmer, 1926: 274, pl. 17, figs 5, 6, 8, 13; Pouyet & David, 1979: 783, text fig. 2.

Not *Steganoporella lateralis* MacGillivray, 1895: 53, pl. 6, fig. 18.

Material

Holotype: NHM 1899.5.1.261, Tahiti, collected by Miss Jelly, Hincks Coll.

Other material examined: NHM 1928.3.6.80, Kur Island, Kei Islands, 0–45 m; NHM 1975.7.18.44, East of Palau, 5° 35′ 32″S, 106° 33′ 55″E, 110 feet; NHM 1998.8.4.19,76,308, Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu, 4–5 m.

Description

Colony forming flat, encrusting sheets, horn-coloured when dried. Autozooids rounded distally, straight or concave proximally, generally parallel-sided. Gymnocyst most prominent as a smooth raised distal margin surrounding the operculum, apparently ending at the lateral opercular condyles, but may be seen as a thin band surrounding the entire cryptocyst. Cryptocyst occupying about half total length of autozooid; central portion flat, finely nodular, with numerous fine perforations; surrounded by a raised, non porous, tuberculate rim, particularly prominent at the distal edge, i.e. the proximal border of the opesia, which is generally concave. Frontal membrane thick, opaque. The rounded polypide tube is situated centrally and vertically, visible in frontal view; it has a more or less strongly flared distal margin with a pair of lateral 'horns', lacking the marginal flanges seen in other *Steginoporella* species.

Measurements

Holotype. means and standard deviations, mm ($n=$ 25).

Autozooid length 0.90 ± 0.08; width 0.50 ± 0.04.

Etymology

Steginoporella jellyae nomen novum for *Steginoporella lateralis* auctt. non MacGillivray, 1895. Named for Miss Eliza C. Jelly in recognition of her contributions to bryozoology in the nineteenth century and as the collector of the holotype specimen.

Remarks

Steginoporella jellyae is characterized by having a complete distal edge to its cryptocyst, unlike other species such as *Steginoporella magnilabris* (Busk, 1854) in which the distal edge descends to the basal wall. *S. jellyae* appears initially to grow directionally in encrusting, bifurcating, bi- or triserial, fingers.

Steginoporella jellyae has consistently been assigned to *Steginoporella lateralis* MacGillivray, 1895, a fossil species from the Tertiary of Victoria, Australia. By comparison of material with MacGillivray's (1895) excellent illustration it is obvious that the two species differ. The presence of a complete distal edge to the cryptocyst in *S. jellyae* is unique amongst described species of *Steginoporella* and makes identification from illustrations by authors easy.

No dimorphic *B* zooids were observed in the material of *Steginoporella jellyae* from Vanuatu; however Harmer (1926) illustrated the two types and suggested that one of Levinsen's (1909) illustrations shows the same. Two unregistered specimens from the Solomon Islands, in the Soule Collection at the University of Southern California, have *B* zooids present: the operculum is darker in colour and wider than *A* zooids; 6–8 mandibular teeth, with four larger than the rest. The distal cryptocyst described in such species as *S. magnilabris* as an 'oral shelf' (Levinsen, 1909; Ryland & Hayward, 1992) is absent in *S. jellyae*. The basal wall of the polypide tube may sometimes be formed by the basal surface of the autozooid (Levinsen, 1909). Since Harmer (1926), this species has been recorded twice, by Brown (1956), from the Pliocene of South Australia and Gurgel & Vasseur (1974) from the Recent, Mozambique (though neither illustrated the species), surprising when areas within and neighbouring its known Pacific distribution have recently been studied (e.g. Winston & Heimberg, 1986; Scholz, 1991; Ryland & Hayward, 1992; Hayward & Ryland, 1995a).

Several ancestrulae were found in the specimens studied. Only one primary zooid was ever found with no evidence of the secondary zooids described by Cook (1985), in *Steginoporella buskii* Harmer, 1900 and *S. magnilabris*.

A second as yet undescribed species of *Steginoporella* (NHM 1899.5.1.29—unknown locality, Hincks Collection.) also has a complete distal edge to its cryptocyst; however, the polypide tube, visible in frontal view, is situated asymmetrically and basally, it is wider, has a more strongly flared distal margin with a pair of lateral marginal flanges not seen in *Steginoporella jellyae*.

Distribution

Several small colonies of *Steginoporella jellyae* were found associated with *Antropora granulifera*, *Monoporella nodulifera* and *Crepidacantha longiseta*, encrusting coral rubble and overgrowing other bryozoans.

Steginoporella jellyae Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.54, fig.6B,D.

Harmer's (1900) records of this species from Torres Straits and Tahiti suggest that this species should be found on suitable reef substrata between these two outliers and its occurrence in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands would confirm this. The presence of this species at Port Vila Harbour is the first record from this area. The records of Brown (1956) and Gurgel & Vasseur (1974) must be substantiated by examination of their material.