

Reptadeonella cellulanus Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.66, fig.12A-C.

REPTADEONELLA CELLULANUS SP. NOV.

(Fig. 12A-C)

Material

Holotype: NHM 1998.8.4.201, Erakor Island, Efate, Vanuatu.

Paratypes: NHM 1998.8.4.121, Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu; NHM 1998.8.4.267, Poanangisu, Efate, Vanuatu.

Description

Colony encrusting, unilaminar; covered by a thin membrane with a metallic purple sheen when dried. Autozooids irregularly polygonal, convex, distinct, separated by shallow grooves; irregularly arranged. Frontal shield finely granular, with larger tuberculations produced later in ontogeny; a single series of marginal pores extending around the distal margin surrounding the peristome making it subterminal; a single, large, oval medial spiramen, in depression at centre of zooid. Primary orifice semicircular, with a slightly denticulate, concave, proximal border; secondary orifice, which surmounts a thin tubular peristome, is also semicircular; an avicularium is generally present, set medially, on the sloping proximal side of the peristome, i.e. distal to spiramen; acute rostrum directed distolaterally; mandible acutely triangular; no crossbar. Gonozooids or reproductive structures not known. Colony origin from a single ancestrula, the form of which is not known.

Measurements

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

Autozooid length 0.65 ± 0.07 ; autozooid width 0.34 ± 0.04 .

Etymology

From *cellulanus*, L.—hermit, solitary, alluding to the single ancestrula.

Remarks

The apparent lack of an ancestrular complex in this species, as well as the denticulate proximal border to the primary orifice, warrant the erection of a new species.

The colony origin is assumed to be from a single ancestrula, although the paratype specimen which shows the colony origin is equivocal in this regard. It is evident though, that the origin is not from a six-zooid ancestrular complex as seen in *Reptadeonella violacea* (Johnston, 1847), based on the positioning of the periancestrular zooids.

Distribution

Three small, apparently infertile, colonies of *Reptadeonella cellulanus* were found encrusting pieces of coral rubble from Erakor Island, Poanangisu and Port Vila Harbour, Efate.

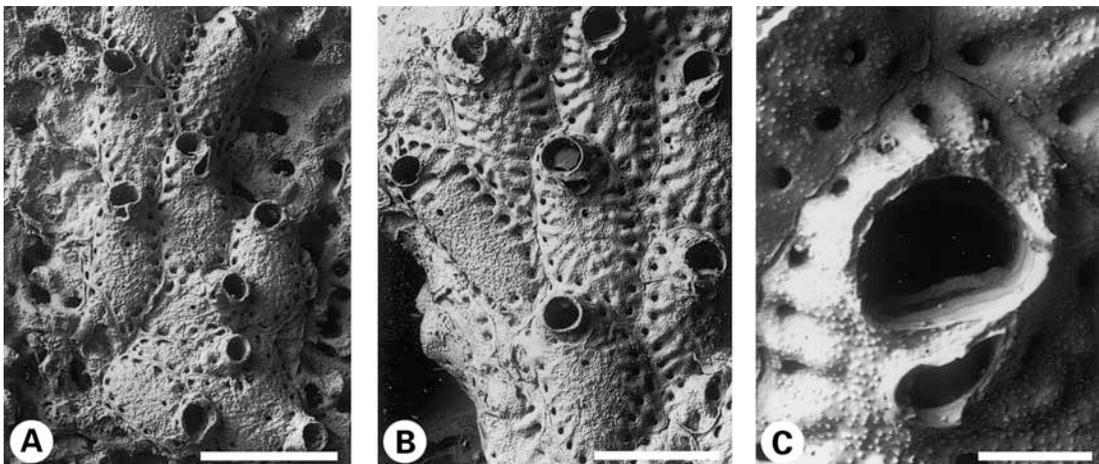


Figure 12. A–C, *Reptadeonella cellulanus* sp. nov. A, colony origin, note directional growth. B, developing autozooids at colony edge. C, primary orifice. Scale bars: A=0.45 mm; B=0.40 mm; C=0.08 mm.