

Metroperiella circumflexa new species
Plate 39E-F

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365567, **501-87**.

Description Colony encrusting, unilaminar. Autozooids irregularly polygonal, slightly convex, distinct, separated by shallow grooves (ca 0.75 x 0.50 mm). Primary orifice oval, wider than long (ca 0.20 x 0.19 mm), broad, deep anter separated from shallower, concave poster by small triangular, proximally pointing, lateral condyles. Frontal shield evenly perforated by a number of large pores, surrounded by raised rims. No oral spines. A single, large avicularium seen on some autozooids, originating proximolateral to orifice, directed distally, curving around lateral edge of orifice, rostrum raised slightly, cup-shaped distally with parallel sides, a small, circular opesia proximal to the complete crossbar, large triangular opesia distally. Ovicell, smooth, globular, partially embedded in frontal shield of distal zooid, thin-walled, perforated by numerous pores of various sizes.

Etymology From *circum*, L. around; *flexus*, L. bend. Named for the large spatulate avicularia that arch around the primary orifice.

Remarks *Metroperiella circumflexa* is characterised by its large orifice, its frontal shield perforated by numerous, large pores and especially by the large, distally directed, lateral-oral avicularium seen in some autozooids.

Metroperiella circumflexa differs from *M. montferrandii* in possessing an orifice that is large relative to the area of the frontal shield. *M. circumflexa* also produces large spatulate avicularia that arch distally around the lateral edge of the primary orifice, rather than the smaller proximally directed avicularia seen in *M. montferrandii*.

Metroperiella biformis new combination differs from both *M. montferrandii* and *M. circumflexa* in developing small rounded or elongate oval suboral avicularia, the primary orifice developing a slight peristome.

Distribution Only a single colony of *Metroperiella circumflexa* is known. It was found encrusting a piece of coral debris on Anuha Reefs, Florida Islands.

