

Metroperiella montferrandii (Audouin, 1826). Tilbrook, 2006, p.182, pl.39D.

Metroperiella montferrandii (Audouin, 1826)
Plate 39D

Flustra montferrandii Audouin, 1826: 240.

Codonellina montferrandii: Hamner, 1957: 1049, pl. 69, figs 25, 26, 30 (cum syn.); Lagaaij, 1963: 196, pl. 6, fig. 3; Hayami, 1975: pl. 17, fig. 8; Dumont, 1981: 636; Rho & Seo, 1984: 86, text-fig. 2B, pl. 5, fig. 5; Gordon, 1984: 77, pl. 26A; Cook, 1985: 188, text figs 21,40 (cum syn.); Ristedt & Hillmer, 1985: 137, pl. 4, fig. 2.

Metroperiella montferrandii: Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 74, fig. 15F; Liu, Yin & Ma, 2001: 583, pl. 46, figs 3-5.

Lepralia acuta Ortmann, 1889: 41, pl. 3, fig. 12.

Codonella acuta: Rho & Kim, 1981: 9, pl. 5, figs 6-8 (cum syn.).

Material examined SBMNH 365564, **503-87**; SBMNH 365565, **515-87**; SBMNH 365566, **407-84**; NHM 1973.3.22.89, Gold Coast, 64 m; NHM 1932.4.20.115, Station 13, 3 miles E. of Low Isles, Great Barrier Reef; NHM 1962.2.20.24, Formosa Strait, China Sea, 23°32'N, 119°35'E, Ma Coll.; NHM 1999.4.11.60, Torres Strait, Haddon Coll.; NHM 1933.12.10.9, "Albatross" Station 2815, Galapagos Islands, 65 m; NHM 1975.1.12.33,34, Chios, Mediterranean Sea; NHM 1960.11.2.6, Cap Caveaux, Mediterranean Sea; NHM 1963.8.10.53, southern Red Sea, 26 m, John Murray Coll.; NHM 1888.1.25.40, Mauritius; NHM 2000.6.8.5, Japan, Mitsukuri coll.; NHM 1888.11.14.317, Port Phillip Heads, Victoria, Australia, JBC Coll.; NHM 1882.10.18.125-138 (pt), Darros, Amirante Islands, "Alert", 45 m; NHM 1931.12.30.104, Philippines.

Description Colony encrusting, unilaminar. Autozooids irregularly polygonal (0.60-0.70 x 0.35-0.45 mm), convex, distinct, separated by grooves. Primary orifice oval, longer than wide; broad, deep anter separated from shallower, concave poster by small triangular, lateral condyles, a very low peristome often developed. Frontal shield evenly perforated by numerous small pores. No oral spines. A single adventitious avicularium, proximal to orifice and just off midline, directed proximolaterally, most commonly acute, triangular, with rostrum raised slightly, or less commonly spatulate, of various lengths and widths. Ovicell, smooth, globular, prominent, thin-walled, perforated by scattered pores of various sizes. Ancestrula tatiform.

Remarks *Metroperiella montferrandii* is characterised by its evenly perforated frontal shield, its lightly calcified ovicell and its frontal avicularia, most commonly acute and triangular but often spatulate.

The colonies of *Metroperiella montferrandii* from the Solomon Islands are identical to material from Torres Strait and the South China Sea. This differs slightly from other material assigned to this species however. The material described by Tilbrook *et al.* (2001) from Vanuatu lacks the spatulate avicularia mentioned above and has a more uniformly circular orifice, while retaining the oral peristome. The material from the Red Sea has a similar-shaped orifice to the Vanuatu material but lacks the peristome; it also bears spatulate avicularia as does that from the Formosa Strait and Port Phillip Heads. While it is believed that all this material does indeed belong to the same species, there are obviously slight population-specific morphological differences.

Metroperiella biformis (Zhang & Liu, 1995) **new combination** (originally assigned to *Codonellina*) from the Shandong Peninsula in China, is obviously closely related to *M. montferrandii*, differing from it in possessing sub-oral avicularia which are more closely associated with the orifice, and which are round or oval in shape, rather than triangular. *M. biformis* also produces large spatulate avicularia similar to those seen in *M. montferrandii*.

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Distribution *Metroperiella montferrandii* appears to be common almost circum-tropically, reaching into warm temperate regions either side of the equator. It has been recorded from western Africa, the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and throughout the Indo-Pacific; from Mauritius, Amirante Islands, Indonesia, the Philippines, South China Sea, Japan, Torres Strait, Solomon Islands, Great Barrier Reef, southern Australia, Vanuatu and the Galapagos Islands. In the Solomon Islands it was found from Hamilton Passage, Choiseul, Ruaniu, west of Honiara, Guadalcanal and Utuha, Mboli Passage, between Nggela Sule and Nggela Pile, Florida Islands.

