

Catenicella uberrima (Harmer, 1957). Tilbrook, 2006, p.99, pl.16E-F.

Catenicella uberrima (Harmer, 1957)
Plate 16E-F

Vittaticella uberrima Harmer, 1957 (part): 772, pl. 50, figs 4,5,15.

Vittaticella uberrima: Cook, 1967: 179, pl. 9, fig. h; Lagaaij & Cook, 1973: 496, pl. 1, fig. 1; Mawatari, 1987: 102 (cum syn.).

? *Vittaticella uberrima*: Lagaaij, 1963: 202, pl. 7, figs 1,2.

Catenicella uberrima: Gordon, 1989: 24; Liu, Yin & Ma, 2001: 528, pl. 33, figs 7-9.

Material examined SBMNH 365233-234, **501-87**; NHM 2002.1.14.3, (ex 16.20) 501-87; NHM 2002.1.14.1, (92.D/385) "Siboga" Station 117, Kwandang Bay, N. Celebes, 80 m; NHM 2002.1.14.2, (337.D/391) "Siboga" Station 71, Makassar, W. Celebes, 0-32 m; NHM 2000.4.11.375, Cleveland Bay, Queensland; NHM 1975.11.5.23, (27.A/381) "Siboga" Station 53, Nangamessia Bay, Sumba, 0-36 m; NHM 1975.11.5.25, (350.A/392) "Siboga" Station 240, Banda, Banda Sea, 0-45 m; NHM 1975.11.5.27, (500.A/395) "Siboga" Station 162, Off Loslos Island, N. end of New Guinea; NHM 1975.11.5.30, Singapore, Prof. Stewart; NHM 2004.6.9.1, OCDN5098Z, Koror, Palau; NHM (unregistered) OCDN2852K, Neco Island, Palau.

Description Colony erect, branching, jointed. Internodes generally consist of single autozooids separated by non-calcified nodes. Internodes may sometimes consist of bi- or trizoidal units, bizoidal comprising branch bifurcations, trizoidal formed by two ovicellate zooids followed by an autozooid. Single autozooids slender (ca 0.55 x 0.20 mm), fusiform, widest distally. Primary orifice longer than wide (ca 0.12 x 0.11 mm), high-arched distally, proximal edge shallowly concave and arched frontally with two small condyles just distal to proximolateral corners. A small avicularium on each distolateral corner of autozooid, laterally facing, arising midway along orifice, terminating level with it distally; rostrum triangular, mandible triangular, hooked distally. Proximal zooid of bizoidal unit as large as single autozooids, distal zooid slightly shorter; axial avicularium of proximal zooid suppressed, distal zooid with usual avicularium laterally, axial avicularium often much larger (ca 0.32 mm), extended distal to orifice, angled toward lateral avicularium and often reaching its tip. Two narrow pore chambers (vittae) extending for most of length of each autozooid, one on each side of frontal shield, each with a single series of conspicuous pores. Similar round pore chambers found proximally and distally to each avicularium. Ovicellate zooid orifice dimorphic, as wide as long, operculum closing ovicell; ovicell wider than long, prominent, resting upon frontal wall of distal zooid, a large frontal fenestra in ectoecium exposing smooth endoecium beneath, fenestra bordered by numerous round pore chambers.

Remarks *Catenicella uberrima* is best characterised by its large avicularium on the distal zooid of the bizoidal branch bifurcations. The morphology of the ovicells and their sequential positioning within an internode is also characteristic.

The size of the characteristic large avicularium varies both between and within colonies in the Solomon Islands material and some of that cited by Harmer (1957). Some of the other material cited by Harmer (1957), e.g. that from Sri Lanka, Singapore (Hanitsch Collection) and Torres Strait (Haddon Collection), appears not to represent this species, only having been included, it would seem, because of the presence of sequential ovicells on an internode. This occurs in other *Catenicella* species and is therefore not solely a character of *C. uberrima*.

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Distribution *Catenicella uberrima* was first described from the Java Sea and surrounding areas of Indonesia and Malaysia. It has since been recorded almost circum-tropically; Western Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, West Africa, East Africa, Australia, Malaysia, China and Japan, though it might be prudent to review this distribution. In the Solomon Islands it was found from Anuha Reefs, in the Florida Islands.

