

Celleporaria inaudita Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.70, fig.13D-F.

CELLEPORARIA INAUDITA SP. NOV.

(Fig. 13D–F)

Material

Holotype: NMH 1998.8.4.114, Erakor Lagoon, Efate, 2 October 1990.

Paratype: NMH 1998.8.4.212, collection data as for holotype.

Other material examined: NHM 1998.8.4.110, NHM 1998.8.4.115, NHM 1998.8.4.117, NHM 1998.8.4.214, NHM 1998.8.4.312, Erakor Lagoon, Efate, 2 October 1990; NHM 1998.8.4.109, NHM 1998.8.4.111,112, NHM 1998.8.4.116, NHM 1998.8.4.118,119, NHM 1998.8.4.313,314, NHM 1998.8.4.316, Port Vila Harbour, Efate.

Description

Colony encrusting, multilaminar, developing small nodules on coral substrata and spreading mounds on tile fragments. Autozooids recumbent, broadly oval to hexagonal, convex, with indistinct boundaries. Frontal shield finely nodular, vitreous, with small and rather indistinct marginal pores. Primary orifice slightly wider than long; proximal border gently convex in early ontogeny and slightly arched frontally, thickening in later ontogeny and developing two short, pointed cusps with a shallow, variably developed concavity between. Degree of development of the cusps also varies between autozooids, and in a very few specimens one is replaced by three very much smaller denticulations. No oral spines, no peristome. A small, median suboral avicularium present; rostrum elliptical, its distal rim finely denticulate, orientated perpendicular to the plane of the orifice and facing laterally; apex of cystid thickened in later ontogeny but not developing as a spike, rostral rim always distinct close to its apex. Vicarious avicularia sparse; rostrum acute to frontal plane, 0.37 mm long, broadest at the crossbar, narrowly spatulate, the distal rim coarsely denticulate; crossbar without columella, palate with very large foramen. Ovicell a shallow cap-like structure occupying the distal and lateral borders of the orifice; frontal surface flat and membranous, distal portion thickly calcified, nodular. Vertical walls with small multiporous septula.

Measurements

Holotype, means and standard deviations, mm ($n = 20$).

Autozooid length 0.54 ± 0.09 , width 0.37 ± 0.05 .

Orifice length 0.13 ± 0.008 , width 0.15 ± 0.01 .

Etymology

From *inauditus*, L.—unheard of.

Remarks

Celleporaria inaudita is reminiscent of *Celleporaria aperta* (Hincks, 1882a) but may be distinguished by its primary orifice, with usually two differently sized small cusps, not defining the rather regular sinus seen in *C. aperta*. It also lacks oral spines, while *C. aperta* has two to four, often well developed. Finally, the vicarious avicularium of *C. aperta* has a lanceolate rostrum, quite unlike the narrowly-waisted rostrum seen in *C. inaudita*. *Celleporaria mauritiana* Hayward, 1988 is probably referable to *C. aperta*.

Distribution

Celleporaria inaudita was the commonest *Celleporaria* species collected. Mound-shaped colonies up to 2 cm diameter were collected from both Erakor and Iririki Islands, Port Vila Harbour, and Poanangisu.

