

*Celleporina costazii* (Audouin, 1826). Tilbrook, 2006, p.279, pl.53E-F

***Celleporina costazii*** (Audouin, 1826)  
Plate 53E-F

*Cellepora costazii* Audouin, 1826: 237.

*Celleporina costazii*: Harmer, 1957: 901, pl. 62, figs 1, 4-6 (cum syn.); Dumont, 1981: 636; Gordon, 1984: 114, pl. 45, fig. A (cum syn.); Ristedt & Hillmer, 1985: 138, pl.5, fig. 4; Gordon, 1989b: 70; Scholz, 1991: 302, pl. 10, figs 1, 2.

Material examined SBMNH 365758, 401-84.

**Description** Colony multilaminar. Autozooids small (0.40–0.50 x 0.35–0.45 mm), recumbent, convex, separated by deep grooves at growing edge, becoming less obvious with ontogeny and frontal budding. Frontal shield smoothly calcified, with up to six large pores scattered around the margins. Primary orifice suborbicular, as wide as long (ca 0.12 x 0.12 mm), anter almost circular, separated from the bowl-shaped proximal sinus by indistinct condyles appearing only as thickened regions at proximal corners. Short peristome developed from a pair of large septula flanking orifice, most developed laterally and distally, and incorporating a pair of avicularia. Avicularia laterally, resting one either side on peristome rim, rostrum acute, triangular, slightly hooked and raised from rim distally, complete crossbar, distally directed. Vicarious avicularia large (ca 0.31 mm long), sporadic, narrowest at complete crossbar, elevated on inflated cystid, the proximal portion at an angle to the widely spatulate rostrum, small rostral palate, large oval rostral opesia, proximal opesia D-shaped, randomly orientated. Ovicells not observed.

**Remarks** This species is characterised by its almost circular primary orifice, by its small, paired, distally directed, triangular avicularia and by the size and shape of its vicarious avicularia.

In the absence of ovicells this species is nominally assigned to *Celleporina* and is most similar to *C. costazii* as described and illustrated by Gordon (1984) and Scholz (1991). In his description of Audouin's species, Gordon (1984) states that the peristome is less developed distally than proximally, the opposite of that seen in the material described here. However, the shape and direction of the paired avicularia is the same, but in the absence of ovicells a precise specific determination is not possible.

**Distribution** *Celleporina costazii* has a wide Indo-Pacific distribution from the Red Sea and Sri Lanka in the west, through Indonesia and the Solomon Islands, to southern Australia, New Zealand and Easter Island in the east. A single, small, infertile colony of this species was found from Mbokona Bay, Honiara, Guadalcanal, associated with *Stylopoma consobrina*.

