Costulostega alisonae Tilbrook, 2006, p.104, pl.17E-F

Costulostega alisonae new species
Plate 17E-F

Type material

Holotype: SBMNH 365239, **411-84**.

Paratypes: SBMNH 365240-244, **411-84**.

Other material examined

SBMNH 365245, **501-87**; NHM 1890.3.24.79 (two slides), Murray Island, Torres Strait.

Description

Colony encrusting, forming thin unilaminar sheets. Autozooids slightly disjunct, linked by tubular extensions of basal pore chambers (commonly 0.5-0.6 x 0.25-0.35 mm). Frontal shield with large open area centrally, triangular in shape, widest distally, covered by costa-like processes, 11-13 laterally, 4-6 distally. Primary orifice D-shaped, wider than long (ca 0.11 x 0.08 mm), slightly raised lip to proximal border, straight but dipping into lateral corners. Avicularia small, the rostrum triangular, raised from plane of colony, lateral edges denticulate, its distal tip hooked, crossbar complete, directed distally. Small "costate" kenozooids between autozooids. Ovicellate zooids with dimorphic orifice, wider than normal. Ovicell hyperstomial, with lozenge-shaped "costal" area, leading from a proximal median suture, and into a small avicularium fused to it distally.

Etymology

Named for my wife, Alison Tilbrook.

Remarks

Costulostega alisonae is characterised by its thin, encrusting, sheet-like, yet open colony morphology, but more particularly by the area of costa-like processes in the frontal shield of its autozooids.

Costulostega alisonae is similar to ***C. vittata*** in its overall morphology, however it differs significantly in the shape and size of the "costate" frontal area. The syntype material of ***C. vittata*** illustrated by Gordon (2000: pl. 4, figs c-g) has a relatively narrow, elliptical "costal" area, with eight or nine short, robust, triangular costa-like processes laterally on each side, with small lacunae between them. These processes appear to interdigitate. However, the "costal" area in ***C alisonae*** is much larger and triangular in shape. It has a greater number of laterally derived costa-like processes, which are long and thin and flattened distally, but also produces similar processes from the distal border of the open area. Also, these processes rather than interdigitating appear to meet at the midline and their flattened distal ends almost fuse there. Consequently the lacunae between them are larger and more numerous than those seen in ***C. vittata.***

Distribution

Costulostega alisonae has been recorded previously as *Chorizopora vittata* (MacGillivray, 1869) from Torres Strait (Powell, 1967b). In the Solomon Islands it was found at Raun Island, off Yandina, Russell Islands and Anuha Reefs, Anuha Island, Florida Islands.

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