

Bryopesanser latesco Tilbrook, 2006, p.255, pl.55D, 56A-C.

Bryopesanser latesco new species
Plates 55D; 56A-C

Escharina pesanseris: Harmer, 1957 (part): 998; Scholz, 1991: 311, pl. 14, fig. 4, Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 264; Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 80, fig. 17A, B.

Type material Holotype: NHM 2003.10.13.1, Magnetic Island, Townsville, Queensland.
Paratype: NHM 2003.10.13.2, (locality as Holotype)

Other material examined SBMNH 365719, **411-84**; SBMNH 365720, **401-84**; NHM (unregistered, SEM 2002), Solomon Islands; NHM 1963.2.12.313, Philippines or Singapore; NHM 1931.12.30.159, "Albatross" Station 5151, off Sirun Island, Tawi-tawi Islands, Philippines, 44 m; NHM 2000.2.23.7, "Siboga" Station 204, between Wowoni and Buton, S. of Celebes, 75-94 m; NHM 2000.2.23.16, "Siboga" Station 213, Saleyer, S. of Celebes, 0-36 m; NHM 2003.10.13.3, Cleveland Bay, Great Barrier Reef; NHM 1998.8.4.169, Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu.

Description Colony encrusting, producing colonies up to 1 cm² in area. Autozooids hexagonal or irregularly polygonal (0.60–0.75 x 0.45–0.60 mm), distinct, separated by shallow grooves. Frontal shield granular, convex, evenly perforated with small pores, large single, or paired, areolae laterally or proximally. Primary orifice rounded D-shaped, slightly longer than wide (ca 0.11 x 0.10 mm), anter deeply arched, proximal border straight, condyles slightly denticulate, shallow, dipping medially, sinus drop-shaped, wider than long. Seven evenly-spaced oral spines. Proximal peristome widely flared. Avicularia originating lateral to second pair of spines, rostra medium-sized, open-ended distally, crossbar complete, distomedially directed, mandibles fan-shaped. Ovicell hyperstomial, with raised, pointed process frontally. Ovicellate zooids with six oral spines, the most distal pair incorporated into ovicell. Ancestrula longer than wide (ca 0.30 x 0.20 mm), with ten spines, five closely spaced distally, and five widely-spaced around proximal, opesia occupying over half frontal surface.

Etymology From *latesco*, L. to hide oneself. Named because it remained hidden amongst specimens of its congener *B. pesanseris*.

Remarks *Bryopesanser latesco* is characterised by its primary orifice, its straight proximal border, slightly denticulate shallow condyles, which dip medially, wider than long sinus, and the flared peristome. The position of the avicularia is also characteristic, as is their distomedial orientation. *Bryopesanser latesco* produces colonies of up to one square centimetre, relatively large in comparison with other species of *Bryopesanser*.

Bryopesanser latesco differs from *B. pesanseris* in the position of its avicularia, although this can vary slightly within a colony, the medially dipping condyles, and the possession of a flared peristome rather than a peristome developed as a spire-like umbo. While *B. capitaneus* also develops a peristomial umbo, similar to *B. pesanseris*, this species differs from *B. latesco* in the production of multiporous frontal pores. *B. capitaneus* produces much larger autozooids and smaller colonies than *B. latesco*.

Distribution *Bryopesanser latesco* is found within the Indo-Malaysian region and Coral Sea, from Singapore and the Philippines, Celebes, the Solomon Islands, the Queensland coast and Great Barrier Reef, east to Vanuatu, where it was noted as quite common on coral rubble (Tilbrook *et al.*, 2001). In the Solomon Islands *B. latesco* was found at Mbokona Bay, Honiara, Guadalcanal and Raun Island, Yandina, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands.

