

Bryopesanser pesanseris (Smitt, 1873). Tilbrook, 2006, p.253, Pl.55A-C.

***Bryopesanser pesanseris** (Smitt, 1873)
new combination Plate 55A-C

Hippothoa pes anseris Smitt, 1873: 43, pl. 7, figs 159, 160.

Escharina pesanseris: Winston, 1984: 26, figs 53–55.

Not *Escharina pesanseris*: Harmer, 1957: 998, pl. 67, figs 12–14, 18, 19; Hayami, 1975: 109, pl. 15, fig. 2; Gordon, 1984: 84, pl. 29, figs A, B; Ristedt & Hillmer, 1985: 137, pl. 3, fig. 9; Scholz, 1991: 311, pl. 14, fig. 4, Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 264; Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 80, fig. 17A, B.

- Type material** Holotype: SMNH 1791, West of Tortugas, 77 m.
- Other material examined** NHM 1932.3.7.37, “Albatross” Station 2639, 25°4’50”N, 80°15’10”W, Straits of Florida, 102 m; NHM 1911.10.1.1212, Madeira; NHM 1911.10.1.1551, “Blake” no. 26, 24°37’N, 83°36’W, 73 m; NHM 1911.10.1.1704, “Blake” no. 26, 24°37’N, 83°36’W, 73 m; NHM 1986.8.14.31, 20°49.5’N, 79°58’W, 73 m.
- Description** Colony encrusting. Autozooids hexagonal or irregularly polygonal (0.55–0.63 x 0.35–0.42 mm), distinct, separated by shallow grooves. Frontal shield granular, convex, evenly perforated with small pores, very small single, or paired, areolae laterally. Primary orifice rounded D-shaped, slightly longer than wide (0.11 x 0.10 mm), anter deeply arched, proximal border straight, slightly raised medially, condyles shallow, slightly denticulate, sinus drop-shaped. Seven evenly spaced oral spines. Proximal peristome developed into a raised, spire-like median mucro with ontogeny. Avicularia originating lateral to most proximal pair of spines, rostra medium-sized, open ended distally, crossbar complete, distally directed, mandibles fan-shaped, with two prominent ribs. Ovicell hyperstomial, with raised process frontally, closed by maternal operculum. Ovicellate zooids with six oral spines, the most distal pair incorporated into ovicell slightly.
- Etymology** From *bryum*, L. moss; *pes*, L. foot; *anas*, L. duck. A play on the name of the Phylum and the type species of this new genus.
- Remarks** *Bryopesanser pesanseris* is characterised by its rounded D-shaped primary orifice, with straight proximal border and slightly denticulate condyles, laterally placed avicularia, distally directed. The development of a proximal peristomial mucro, with a corresponding process on the frontal of ovicells, while not unique to this species is characteristic of it.
- Harmer (1957) in his discussion of Smitt’s (1873) species notes a difference in the recorded number of prominent rays in the avicularian mandible, Smitt noting three while Harmer himself only counted two. Examination of Smitt’s material shows only two prominent rays, as is the case in other material examined, however the number of flanges seen on undamaged mandibles is often three or four. The two rays appear to strengthen the middle two flanges; the other outer flanges remain unstrengthened.
- Distribution** Originally described from the Tortugas, *Bryopesanser pesanseris* is only found with certainty in the Atlanto-Caribbean region, from the eastern Pacific to Madeira. All previous records should be viewed with caution until the relevant material can be re-examined. This caution is reflected in the rather limited synonymic listing above.

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