

Calypotheca australis (Haswell, 1880). Tilbrook, 2006, p.224, pl.49A-B.

Calypotheca australis (Haswell, 1880)
new combination Plate 49A-B

Hemeschara australis Haswell, 1880: 41, pl. 2, figs 7,8.

Schizoporella australis: Harmer, 1902: 266, 303, pl. 17, fig. 47.

Schizomavella australis: Hastings, 1932: 417, pl. 1, fig. C; Harmer, 1957: 1031, pl. 66, figs 5,9.

Type material Syntype: NHM 1999.3.30.7, Port Denison, Queensland, 36 m. Haswell Coll., ex Australian Museum.

Other material examined SBMNH 365651-653, **501-87**; NHM 1999.3.30.5, Holborn Island, Port Denison, Queensland, 36 m; NHM 1932.4.20.40, Low Isles, off Port Douglas, Queensland, 22 m; NHM 1882.2.23.411-420, Torres Strait, 18 m; NHM 1999.3.30.2-4,6, Murray Islands, Torres Strait; NHM 1951.1.20.27, Borneo; NHM 1882.2.23.512-521, Port Darwin. 15-22 m; NHM 1951.1.28.75, Holothuria Bank, NE Australia. 17-66 m; NHM 1999.3.30.1, Singapore; NHM 1862.7.16.3, Saghalien, Japan; NHM 1942.12.2.34, ?Cape of Good Hope?; NHM (unregistered), North Wistari Reef, Fiji.

Description Forming erect, tubular colonies from thin, flat encrustations. Autozooids rectangular, flattened, separated by shallow grooves (commonly 0.50 x 0.40 mm). Frontal shield granular with numerous round pores, marginal pores larger and elongate, marginal wall sutures distinct and slightly raised. Primary orifice pear-shaped, as wide as long (ca 0.10 x 0.10 mm), broadest distally, with a U-shaped proximal sinus, condyles robust, rounded, denticulate. Single suboral avicularium present, dimorphic: either large, proximally directed, rostrum long, triangular, flush with frontal shield, the proximal area mirroring rostrum, the two areas stretching from proximal edge of oral sinus to proximal margin, proximal opesia circular, distal opesia triangular, crossbar complete; or smaller, disto-laterally directed, curved around proximal edge of sinus slightly, rostrum acutely triangular, slightly raised from frontal shield, proximal area rounded, proximal opesia circular, distal opesia oval, crossbar complete. Ovicell wider than long, partially immersed, calcification similar to frontal shield but with fewer pores, orifice dimorphic (wider), closed by maternal operculum.

Remarks *Calypotheca australis* is characterised by its erect tubular colony form, its pear-shaped primary orifice and its dimorphic frontal avicularia, either large, stretching from oral sinus to proximal margin, or smaller, and curving distolaterally around the sinus.

Calypotheca australis is prevalent in the Indo-Malay region, Torres Strait and Great Barrier Reef, but there are slight differences in the diameter of the tubes, the shapes of the orifices and the prevalence of the avicularian morphotypes within a colony, between some of these locations. In material from Queensland the smaller suboral avicularia are far more common than the larger morphotype. The material from Holothuria Bank has tubes with a smaller bore than that from other locations. The material from the Solomon Islands bears only the large avicularia in approx. 50% of autozooids, it has a slightly more rounded aspect to the orifice than the type material, has a slightly wider and shallower proximal sinus and slightly smaller condyles. Ovicells are present in these encrusting unilaminar specimens.

Distribution Originally described from Queensland, *Calypotheca australis* has been recorded from the China Sea, the Indo-Malay region, Torres Strait and Great Barrier Reef. In the Solomon Islands it was found from Anuha Reefs, Anuha Island, Florida Islands.

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