

Stylopoma curvabile Tilbrook, 2001, p. 16, fig. 6A-C.

STYLOPOMA CURVABILE SP. NOV.

(Fig. 6A-C)

Material

Holotype: NHM 1931.9.11.15, Murray Island, Torres Strait.

Paratypes: NHM 1931.9.11.14, Murray Island, Torres Strait; NHM 1890.3.24.18, Murray Island, Torres Strait.

Other material examined: NHM 1882.2.23.535-9, West Island, Torres Strait; NHM 1999.4.11.13,15-19, Cleveland Bay, Great Barrier Reef.

Description

Colony a multilaminar, encrusting sheet. Autozooids irregularly polygonal or hexagonal, slightly convex, separated by distinct grooves. Frontal shield evenly perforated by small round pores (40–60), each set in a depression, surrounded by a rim of thickened calcification often bearing small spinules; usually a central, raised umbo is produced, often quite pronounced; marginal pores indistinct; lateral walls distinct. Primary orifice slightly wider than long, D-shaped, the proximal border curved distally either side of the slit-like median sinus, which is expanded a little proximally; condyles shallow, denticulate, occupying the majority of the proximal border and following its contour, each side of the sinus, tapering off medially into it. One adventitious avicularium proximo-lateral to orifice; rostrum inclined to frontal plane, disto-laterally directed, often slightly curved medially, around the angle of the orifice; mandible long, acute triangular, crossbar complete. Additional adventitious avicularia occasional elsewhere on frontal shield, similar in shape and size to oral type, but randomly orientated. Vicarious avicularia present, as large as autozooids, with a broadly spatulate mandible, distally directed. Ovicells very prominent, densely porous with a crescentic slit-like aperture and massive, entire, proximal, D-shaped labellum overhanging and obscuring the orifice of the maternal zooid; labellum visible in frontal view.

Measurements

Holotype: means and standard deviations, mm ($n=30$).

Autozooid: length, 0.48 ± 0.04 ; width, 0.26 ± 0.03 .

Orifice: length, 0.07 ± 0.00 ; width, 0.12 ± 0.00 .

Sinus length, 0.04 ± 0.00 .

Avicularium: length, 0.13 ± 0.00 ; width, 0.04 ± 0.00 .

Etymology

From *curvabilis*, L. – that which may be bent. Named after its suboral avicularium, which may be curved around the proximo-lateral angle of the primary orifice.

Remarks

Stylopoma curvabile sp. nov. is characterized by the curved proximal border to its primary orifice, its small condyles and acutely triangular suboral avicularia.

Most of the specimens were originally assigned to *Stylopoma schizostoma* by Hastings (1932). However, *S. schizostoma* differs from this species in its sparsely distributed adventitious avicularia, which are very large with a rounded mandible, and in the relatively straight proximal border of the orifice.

Two types of ovicells have been observed in *Stylopoma curvabile* sp. nov. The ovicell aperture and labellum described above are very distinct, but may be a result of secondary calcification; an ovicell from another colony, was observed having an oval aperture and an entire labellum not obvious in frontal view. This latter ovicell, however, may be an immature stage of the former. The adventitious avicularia in the Great Barrier Reef specimens appear slightly shorter than in those from the Torres Strait, and do not curve around the angle of the primary orifice.

Distribution

Stylopoma curvabile sp. nov. is known from the Torres Strait and the Great Barrier Reef.



