

Stylopoma distorta Canu & Bassler, 1929. Tilbrook, 2001, p.8, fig. 2A,B

STYLOPOMA DISTORTA CANU & BASSLER, 1929
(Fig. 2A,B)

Stylopoma distorta Canu & Bassler, 1929: 314, pl. 36, figs 1, 2.

Material

Syntypes: USNM 8071, Jolo Light, Jolo, Philippines. 23 fms; USNM 8072, Tawi Tawi, off Tingata Island, Philippines. 230 fms.

Other material examined: NHM 1999.4.11.26, W. Flores, Indonesia. 0–40 m.

Description

Colony an encrusting, multilaminar sheet. Autozooids irregularly polygonal or hexagonal, slightly convex, separated by distinct grooves. Frontal shield evenly perforated by small round pores (70–90), each in a deep depression; the marginal pores are larger and distinct; lateral walls obvious, sometimes incurving towards the frontal shield. Primary orifice as wide as long, D-shaped, the straight proximal border with a U-shaped median sinus; smooth, squared condyles with a distinct frontally directed lip, occupying the majority of the proximal border on each side of the sinus and tapering medially into it. Usually one small adventitious avicularium proximo-lateral to the orifice, though may be lacking, rostrum inclined to frontal plane, disto-laterally directed; crossbar complete, mandible short equilateral, triangular, becoming buried in frontal calcification. Additional adventitious avicularia not observed. Vicarious avicularia with spatulate rostra (Canu & Bassler, 1929); not observed in present material. Ovicells not observed.

Measurements

Means, mm.

(There are too few autozooids on each specimen to warrant the presentation of the range and standard deviation of the mean measurements.)

USNM 8071:

Autozooid: length, ~0.66; width, ~0.53.

Orifice: length, ~0.11; width, ~0.17.

Avicularium: length, ~0.10; width, ~0.07.

USNM 8072:

Autozooid: length, ~0.70; width, ~0.47.

Orifice: length, ~0.10; width, ~0.17.

NHM 1999.4.11.26:

Autozooid: length, ~0.56; width, ~0.39.

Orifice: length, ~0.09; width, ~0.13.

Avicularium: length, ~0.07; width, ~0.05.

Remarks

Stylopoma distorta is very similar in appearance to *S. novum* sp. nov., differing in its narrower medial sinus and deeper, lipped condyles. The ovicells of this species have not been observed (though they are mentioned by Canu & Bassler, 1929), neither has the ancestrular complex nor the presence of vicarious avicularia (although Canu & Bassler [1929] note their rare occurrence). However, the morphology of the primary orifice alone is sufficient to distinguish it from other superficially similar species described herein.

Although very similar in their primary orifices, the Philippine material (USNM 8071, 8072) has autozooids which are less convex than the material from Indonesia (NHM 1999.4.11.26). Also, the Indonesian specimen has avicularia slightly inclined to the frontal shield, which in some autozooids shows the beginnings of a central umbo, whereas avicularia in the Philippines material are partially buried and no autozooid shows any signs of a central umbo. The autozooids of the Indonesian specimen are also smaller than those of the type material, although their relative proportions are similar to those from the Philippines. This, and the points above may indicate that the Indonesian colony is in an earlier ontogenetic stage than the specimens from the Philippines. However, it is possible that there are two species here that may be distinguished when further specimens of each are collected and the ovicells compared.

Harmer (1957) placed *S. distorta* in synonymy with *S. parviporosa* Canu & Bassler, 1929. Having examined Canu & Bassler's material of *S. parviporosa* and finding it to be conspecific with *S. duboisii* (Audouin) Harmer's synonymy is here rejected.

