Stylopoma magnistilla Tilbrook, 2001, p.22, fig. 8D-F.

STYLOPOMA MAGNISTILLA SP. NOV.
(Fig. 8D–F)

Material

Holotype: NHM 1999.4.11.32, Stn 164, W. of N. end of New Guinea. 32 m.

Other material examined: NHM 1998.8.4.264, Torres Strait; NHM 1999.4.11.33, N. Ubian, Sulu Archipelago, Philippines. 16–23 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 (25–45), each set in a large depression, surrounded by a sharp rim of thickened calcification; the marginal pores are larger and more distinct; lateral walls distinct; central umbo often produced on many autozooids. Primary orifice wider than long, D-shaped, the straight proximal border with a slit-like median sinus which is expanded proximally, giving it a drop-like appearance; condyles very deep, smooth, lipped, rectangular, occupying the majority of the proximal border each side of the sinus and tapering off medially into it, producing a Y-shaped outline to the orifice. Adventitious avicularia, single or paired, proximo-lateral to the orifice, though slightly further from the orifice than in most species; rostrum slightly inclined to the frontal plane, distally or disto-laterally directed; mandible acute triangular, crossbar complete. Additional adventitious avicularia may be present elsewhere on the frontal shield similar in shape and size to those just described. Vicarious avicularia also present, as large as autozooids, with a very broadly spatulate mandible distally directed. Ovicells prominent, globular, densely porous with a slightly crescentic slit-like oval aperture and entire proximal labellum, with distinct suture, not visible in frontal view, overhanging and obscuring the orifice of the maternal zooid.

Measurements

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

Autozooid: length, 0.65 ± 0.05; width, 0.47 ± 0.06.
Orifice: length, 0.10 ± 0.01; width, 0.17 ± 0.01.
Sinus length, 0.06 ± 0.00.
Avicularium: length, 0.13 ± 0.00; width, 0.07 ± 0.00.

Etymology

From *magnus*, L. – large, great; *stilla*, L. – drop. Named after the large drop-like median sinus.

Remarks

Stylopoma magnistilla sp. nov. is characterized by the large size of the autozooids, the shape of the orifice, with very large, smooth, lipped condyles and distinctive sinus, as well as the pitting of the pores on the frontal shield.

This species is similar to both *Stylopoma lacrima* sp. nov. and *S. vilaensis* sp. nov. In *S. lacrima* sp. nov. the autozooids are smaller, as is the primary orifice; the primary orifice lacks the deep, lipped condyles, and the sinus although of similar shape is much wider at its distal end, i.e. at the join with the proximal border of the orifice. The frontal calcification also differs, as does the structure of the ovicell. In *S. vilaensis* sp. nov. the autozooids and the primary orifice are again smaller; the primary orifice has smooth, unlipped condyles which are not as deep as those seen in *S. magnistilla* sp. nov. and the sinus lacks the proximal expansion. However, the frontal shields of the two species are almost identical, with few small pores, set at the bottom of deep hollows.

Scholz (1991) described a species from the Philippines that he called *Stylopoma* aff. *parviporosa*. He described a frontal shield with few frontal pores (20–50), bordered by calcified rims that were higher and more pointed than seen in the other species he described. The ovicell had an entire labellum with an oval aperture. Both of these features are seen in *S. magnistilla* sp. nov. and *S. vilaensis* sp. nov. The taxonomic identity of this species can only be confirmed following re-examination of Scholz's (1991) original material.

The Holotype material was removed from a slide specimen which also contained *S. duboisii*. Another slide from the same location contained *S. mauritiana* sp. nov.; all three species seem to occur in close association, though they differ substantially morphologically.

Distribution

S. magnistilla sp. nov. is recorded from the Torres Strait, from New Guinea and the Sulu Archipelago, Philippines.

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