

Stylopoma mauritiana Tilbrook, 2001, p. 22, Fig. 9A-C

STYLOPOMA MAURITIANA SP. NOV.

(Fig. 9A-C)

Stylopoma duboisii: Hayward, 1988: 317.

Material

Holotype: NHM 19 NHM 1891.8.18.1, Mauritius.

Paratype: NHM 1996.4.25.11, Flic en Flac, Mauritius.

Other material examined: NHM 1999.4.11.20, W. of N. end of New Guinea. 32 m; NHM 1999.4.11.21, Cleveland Bay, Great Barrier Reef.

Description

Colony an encrusting sheet, often multilaminar and quite extensive. Autozooids irregularly polygonal or hexagonal, slightly convex, but becoming flattened in later ontogeny, separated by distinct grooves. Frontal shield evenly perforated by small round pores (20–40), each set in a large depression, surrounded by a rim of thickened calcification; a central umbo sometimes evident; the marginal pores are larger and more distinct; lateral walls distinct. Primary orifice wider than long, D-shaped, the straight proximal border with a slit-like median sinus; condyles shallow, denticulate, rectangular, occupying the majority of the proximal border each side of the sinus and tapering off medially into it. One adventitious avicularium close, and proximo-lateral to, the orifice, originating proximal to the sinus, extending to the proximo-lateral corners of the orifice; rostrum inclined to frontal plane, disto-laterally directed, often immersed in secondary calcification, triangular proximal area; mandible acute triangular, crossbar complete. Additional, similar adventitious avicularia often present on the frontal shield. Vicarious avicularia also present, as large as autozooids, with a spatulate mandible, thinner and more parallel-sided in the middle, variably directed. Ovicells prominent, densely porous with the crescentic aperture and split proximal labellum, not seen in frontal view, overhanging and obscuring the orifice of the maternal zooid.

Measurements

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

Autozooid: length, 0.58 ± 0.07 ; width, 0.32 ± 0.05 .

Orifice: length, 0.08 ± 0.00 ; width, 0.12 ± 0.00 .

Sinus length, 0.04 ± 0.00 .

Avicularium: length, 0.09 ± 0.00 ($n = 10$); width, 0.04 ± 0.00 ($n = 10$).

Etymology

Named after its type locality.

Remarks

Stylopoma mauritiana sp. nov. is characterized by its primary orifice, and especially by the shape and positioning of its suboral avicularia, which are always close to the sinus of the primary orifice. In these latter features it differs from the otherwise similar *S. velatum* sp. nov.

Distribution

Stylopoma mauritiana sp. nov. has been recorded from Mauritius, New Guinea and the Great Barrier Reef.

