

*STYLOPOMA NOVUM* SP. NOV.  
(Fig. 9D-F)

*Material*

Holotype: NHM 1998.8.4.141, Iririki Island, Vanuatu.  
Paratypes: NHM 1998.8.4.138-140, Iririki Island, Vanuatu.

Other material: NHM 1999.4.11.12, Sq.3B/Stn 997(2), Cleveland Bay, Great Barrier Reef.

*Description*

Colony encrusting, multilaminar. Autozooids hexagonal or irregularly polygonal, flat or slightly convex, separated by distinct grooves. Primary orifice wider than long, D-shaped, with a smooth anter; sinus deep, U-shaped or rounded V-shaped, occupying half of the straight proximal border and constituting one-third of the total orifice length; condyles, smooth, shallow and rounded, with a frontal lip. Frontal shield, evenly and densely perforated with large round pores (60–80), each surrounded by a sharp rim of thickened calcification; marginal pores and lateral walls distinct. Adventitious avicularium single, proximo-lateral to orifice only; rostrum bluntly triangular, slightly inclined to frontal plane, disto-laterally directed. Vicarious avicularia sporadic, larger than autozooids, with large spatulate rostrum; with a complete, slender crossbar. Ovicells globular, prominent, calcification similar to that of frontal shield; aperture very narrow, crescentic; proximal labellum spade-shaped with an obvious median suture line. Both aperture and labellum visible in frontal view.

*Measurements*

Paratype, 1998.8.4.138: means and standard deviations, mm ( $n=30$ ).

Autozooid: length,  $0.65 \pm 0.10$ ; width,  $0.42 \pm 0.05$ .

Orifice: length,  $0.10 \pm 0.00$ ; width,  $0.16 \pm 0.00$ .

Sinus length,  $0.04 \pm 0.00$ .

Avicularium: length,  $0.09 \pm 0.00$  ( $n=10$ ); width,  $0.05 \pm 0.00$  ( $n=10$ ).

*Etymology*

From *novus* L. – new. Named because it was the first of the new species of *Stylopoma* to be recognized prompting the investigation that led to this paper.

*Remarks*

*Stylopoma novum* sp. nov. is characterized by its wide sinus, smooth anter (c.f. *S. thornelyae*), inconspicuous, smooth, lipped condyles and its extremely elaborate ovicellular labellum.

*Stylopoma novum* sp. nov. is similar to *S. thornelyae*, but differs in the smooth distal border to the primary orifice (*S. thornelyae* has a denticulate border) and in the elaborate ovicellular labellum and thin crescentic aperture whereas in *S. thornelyae* the labellum is straight and the aperture D-shaped.

*Distribution*

*Stylopoma novum* sp. nov. was the least common of the three common *Stylopoma* species recorded from Vanuatu (only a single colony of *S. viride* was found; see companion paper), being found encrusting small pieces of coral rubble, in shallow waters around Iririki Island, Efate. It has also been collected from the Great Barrier Reef.

