

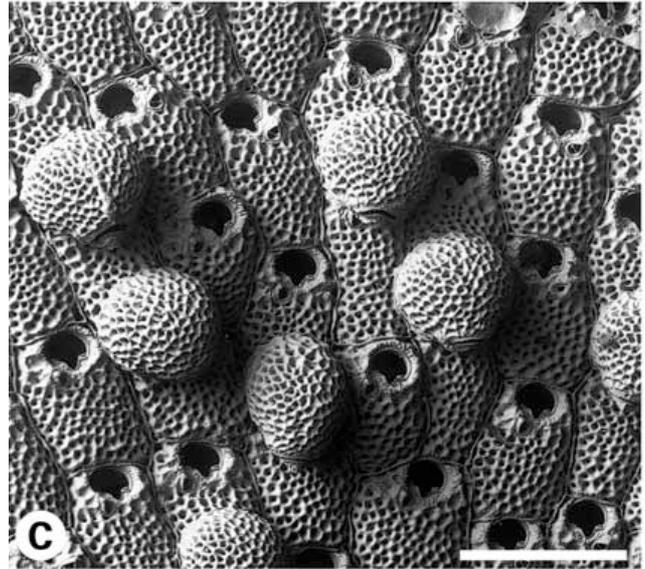
Stylopoma novum Tilbrook, 2001. Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.80, fig.15C.

STYLOPOMA NOVUM TILBROOK
(Fig. 15C)

Stylopoma novum Tilbrook, 2001: companion paper, p. 24, Fig. 9D–F.

Description

Colony encrusting, multilaminar, often extensive. Autozooids hexagonal or irregularly polygonal, flat or slightly convex, separated by distinct grooves; c. 0.65×0.42 mm. Primary orifice wider than long, with a smooth distal border; sinus deep, U-shaped, occupying half of the straight proximal border; condyles smooth, small and rounded, inconspicuous with a frontal lip. Frontal shield evenly and densely perforated with large round pores; marginal pores and lateral walls distinct. Adventitious avicularium, single, proximally latero-oral; rostrum bluntly triangular, slightly acute to frontal plane, distolaterally directed. Vicarious avicularia sporadic, larger than autozooids, with large spatulate rostrum. Ovicells globular, prominent, calcification similar to frontal shield, aperture an inverted C-shape, labellum spade-shaped with a conspicuous median suture line.



Remarks

Stylopoma novum is characterized by its wide sinus, inconspicuous smooth condyles and its extremely elaborate ovicellular labellum.

Stylopoma novum is very similar to *S. thornelyae* Livingstone, 1926 from the Great Barrier Reef but they differ in their orifices. *Stylopoma novum* has a smooth anter while *S. thornelyae* has a denticulate anter. The ovicellular labellum in *S. thornelyae* is far straighter than in *S. novum*.

Distribution

Stylopoma novum was the least common of the three commonest *Stylopoma* species found in Vanuatu; it was found encrusting small pieces of coral rubble in shallow water around Iririki Island, Efate. A small colony has also been found in material from Cleveland Bay, Great Barrier Reef.