

Stylopoma varus Tilbrook, 2001, p.27, fig. 11A-C.

STYLOPOMA VARUS SP. NOV.

(Fig. 11A-C)

Material

Holotype: NHM 1889.8.21.80, Tizard Reef, South China Sea. 27 fathoms.

Other material examined: NHM 1999.4.11.34, Torres Strait.

Description

Colony an encrusting sheet. Autozooids irregularly polygonal or hexagonal, slightly convex, separated by distinct grooves. Frontal shield evenly perforated by round pores (50–70), each set in a depression, surrounded by a rim of thickened calcification; a central umbo developed on each autozooid; the marginal pores are larger and distinct; lateral walls distinct. Primary orifice wider than long, D-shaped, anter smooth, the straight proximal border dipping proximally at each corner, with a small slit-like median sinus; condyles denticulate, rectangular, occupying the majority of the proximal border each side of the sinus. A single adventitious avicularium proximo-lateral to orifice, inclined to frontal plane, disto-laterally directed; mandible triangular; crossbar complete. Additional adventitious avicularia commonly present elsewhere on the frontal shield; similar in shape and size to those just described but randomly orientated. Vicarious avicularia also present, as large as autozooids, with a broadly spatulate mandible. Ovicells globular, densely perforated, aperture D-shaped, split proximal labellum not visible in frontal view.

Measurements

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

Autozooid: length, 0.50 ± 0.04 ; width, 0.35 ± 0.05 .

Orifice: length, 0.08 ± 0.00 ; width, 0.12 ± 0.01 .

Sinus length, 0.03 ± 0.00 .

Avicularium: length, 0.09 ± 0.00 ($n = 15$); width, 0.06 ± 0.00 ($n = 15$).

Etymology

From *varus*, L. – pimple. Named for its pimpled and pustulose appearance, due to the frontal avicularia and central frontal umbo.

Remarks

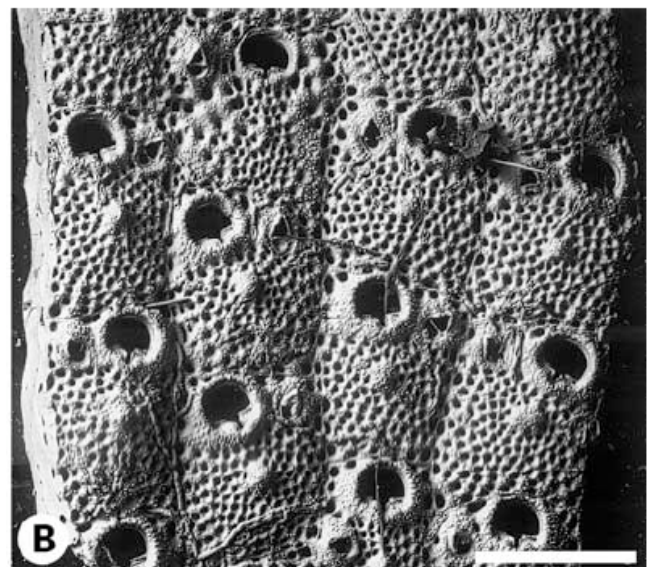
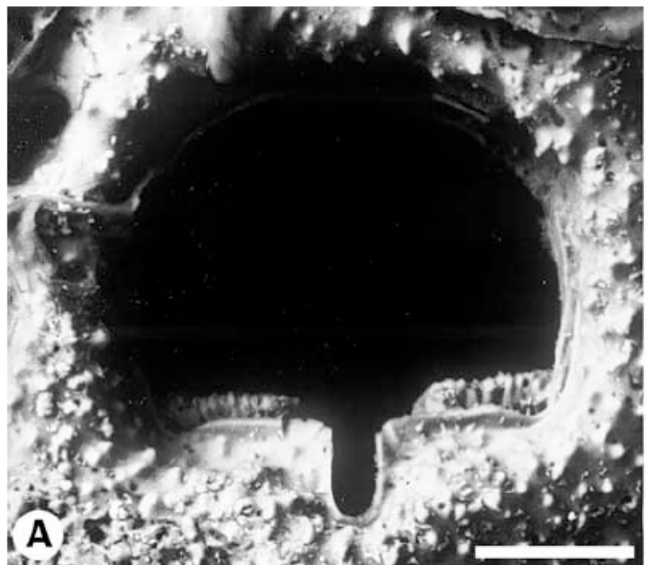
Stylopoma varus sp. nov. is characterized by the primary orifice, the proximal border of which dips proximally at the corners, its very shallow median sinus, and also by the abundance of adventitious avicularia and the presence of a central umbo on the frontal shield of every autozooid. The suboral avicularia also often originate distant from the primary orifice, a feature otherwise seen only in *S. magnistilla* sp. nov. and *S. vilaensis* sp. nov.

The shape of the primary orifice of *Stylopoma varus* sp. nov. is similar to those of *S. duboisii*, *S. velatum*

sp. nov. and *S. mauritiana* sp. nov., but other aspects of its morphology distinguish it from these species. As already mentioned, the abundance of adventitious avicularia is noteworthy, i.e. more abundant than any other species described herein, as this is not often seen in other Indo-West Pacific species (however, see *S. timorensis* sp. nov. above). Also, while a raised central umbo on the frontal shield is not uncommon among species of *Stylopoma*, although they are not seen in the three species which *S. varus* sp. nov. resembles in terms of its primary orifice, the fact that every autozooid bears one, even those early in ontogeny, is worth noting.

Distribution

Stylopoma varus sp. nov. has only been recorded from the South China Sea and from the Torres Strait.



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