

Stylopoma velatum Tilbrook, 2001. Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.82, fig.15D.

STYLOPOMA VELATUM TILBROOK
(Fig. 15D)

Stylopoma duboisii: Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 265, fig. 20a,b.

Stylopoma velatum Tilbrook, 2001: companion paper, pp. 27–29. Fig. 11D–F.

Description

Colony encrusting, unilaminar to multilaminar. Autozooids hexagonal or irregularly polygonal, convex, separated by distinct grooves; c. 0.52×0.36 mm. Primary orifice D-shaped, wider than long with a straight proximal border, with a deep, slit-like sinus; condyles denticulate, occupying entire proximal edge of orifice. Frontal shield perforated by large round pores and larger marginal pores. Adventitious avicularium single, lateral-oral; rostrum bluntly triangular, slightly acute to frontal plane, distolaterally directed. Vicarious avicularia sporadic, autozooid-sized, with large spatulate rostrum; lacking a palate, but with a complete, slender crossbar. Ovicells globular, very densely perforated, aperture oval, labellum incomplete.

Remarks

Stylopoma velatum is characterized by its D-shaped orifice and slit-like sinus. It differs from *S. duboisii* (Audouin, 1826), to which Heron Island specimens were attributed by Ryland & Hayward (1992), in having a more semicircular orifice, distinctly wider than long, and condyles which are shorter and more markedly denticulate. The ovicells also differ, the ovicell aperture in *S. velatum* is oval and the labellum split whereas in *S. duboisii* the aperture is D-shaped and the labellum entire.

There is a lack of adventitious avicularia on some colonies from Vanuatu, but there are still rare vicarious avicularia. This was the commonest of the three common *Stylopoma* species found encrusting coral debris on Erakor and Iririki Islands, Vanuatu. It has also been recorded from the Great Barrier Reef to Tahiti (companion paper, pp. 27–29).

