

Celleporaria pilaefera (Canu & Bassler, 1929). Tilbrook, 2006, p.135, pl.24A-B.

Celleporaria pilaefera (Canu & Bassler, 1929)
Plate 24A-B

Holoporella pilaefera Canu & Bassler, 1929: 422, pl. 60, figs 2-6.

Celleporaria pilaefera: Harmer, 1957 (part): 679, pl. 42, fig. 25; Hayward, 1988: 343, pl. 16, figs e, f; Scholz, 1991: 300, pl. 10, fig. 4; Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 70, fig. 13A-C.

Material examined SBMNH 265330-332, **501-87**; SBMNH 265333, **407-84**; SBMNH 265334, **506-87**; NHM 1998.8.4.213, Erakor Lagoon, Vanuatu.

Description Colony multilaminar. Autozooids convex, rectangular to irregularly polygonal, (0.40–0.50 x 0.30–0.40 mm), coarsely nodular in later ontogeny, 10–20 large marginal pores. Primary orifice almost D-shaped, wider than long (ca 0.16 x 0.14 mm), the proximal border slightly concave and arched frontally, condyles short, bluntly tapered, in proximolateral corners. No oral spines or peristome. Suboral avicularian rostrum elliptical, the distal tip denticulate, facing laterally, directed frontally, the cystid developing a short apical spike, sometimes with a more substantial column. Vicarious avicularia rare, rostrum slightly spatulate, narrowest at complete crossbar, deeply cupped distally, minimal rostral palate distally, with large rounded, triangular opesia, raised from colony surface, randomly directed. Ovicell prominent, asymmetrically developed, occupying distal and one lateral border of orifice, the calcified portion thick and finely granular.

Remarks *Celleporaria pilaefera* is characterised by its primary orifice, its almost D-shaped outline with small proximolateral condyles, its vicarious avicularia and the asymmetrical development of its ovicells.

Distribution *Celleporaria pilaefera* has been accorded an Indo-Pacific distribution in the past, particularly by Harmer (1957). However, as with many supposedly widely distributed species it is possible, if not probable, that more than one species was included under this name. Re-examination of all the material assigned to this species would clarify its status and distribution. Originally described from the Philippines, *Celleporaria pilaefera*, as described here, agrees with material described from Vanuatu by Tilbrook *et al.* (2001). In the Solomon Islands it was found from Gibson Island, Hamilton Passage, Choiseul, Linggatu Cove, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands and Anuha Reefs, Anuha Island, Florida Islands.

