

***Sinupetraliella litoralis* (Hastings, 1932)**

Figs 12A-C

Petralia litoralis Hastings, 1932: 438, pl. 1, fig. A; text fig. 15.

Petraliella litoralis: Ryland, 1974: 342.

Sinupetraliella litoralis: Stach, 1936: 378; Harmer, 1957 (in part): 706; Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 276, fig. 25a; Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 86, fig. 19A.

Material examined

HOLOTYPE: BMNH 1932.4.20.61, Low Island, off Port Douglas, Queensland, between tidemarks.

PARATYPES: BMNH 1932.4.20.60,62; AM U.2729, (locality as above).

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: BMNH 1993.7.26.63-67, Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef, 13.04.72; BMNH 1996.2.23.5,99,124, Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef; BMNH 1999.4.11.1,8, Green Island, Great Barrier Reef; BMNH 2000.4.11.7,10,11, Green Island, Great Barrier Reef, 08.07.72; BMNH 2000.4.11.12, Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef; BMNH 1998.8.4.26, Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu.

Description

Colonies brown in life, loosely encrusting. Autozooids polygonal (c. 0.95 × 0.80 mm); frontal shield uniformly perforated by large pores; marginal pores and lateral walls distinct. Primary orifice orbicular, with a deep proximal sinus asymmetrically placed, flanked by two lateral denticles. Suborally a small median mucro bears a small, rounded avicularium, facing over the orificial sinus; mandible rounded and hooked terminally. Other small, elongate triangular, sutural avicularia occur; rostrum raised from the frontal shield, variously orientated; mandibles acute. Ovicells prominent, finely tuberculate, with finger-like bars of marginal secondary calcification forming a radial pattern. Basal radicular chambers distal, very small.

Remarks

Sinupetraliella litoralis is characterised by its asymmetrical sinus, small mucronal avicularium, triangular sutural avicularia and ovicell surrounded by finger-like bars of secondary calcification.

The paratype fragments of *S. litoralis*, although dried, show traces of several rhizoids, 5-6 mm long, emanating from the very small radicular chambers. Harmer (1957) figured (pl. 45, figs 11-13) very large lateral oral avicularia in his specimens from South Celebes. Their absence from the Queensland material suggests that his East Indian material is not *S. litoralis sensu stricto*, but belongs to a distinct species.

Sinupetraliella litoralis sensu stricto has only been recorded from the Great Barrier Reef and Vanuatu but it is likely to be found elsewhere in the Coral Sea.

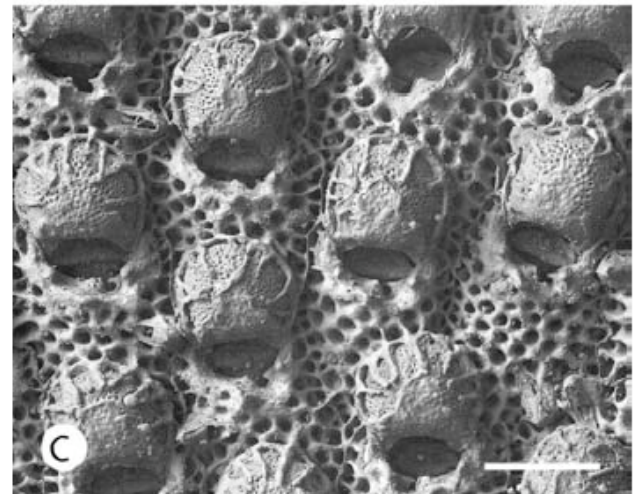
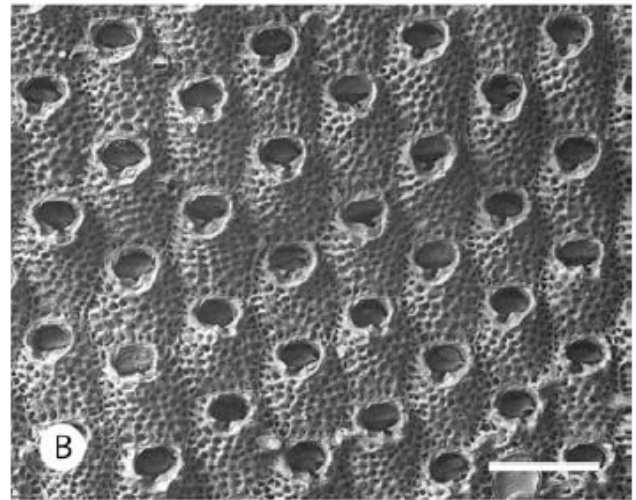
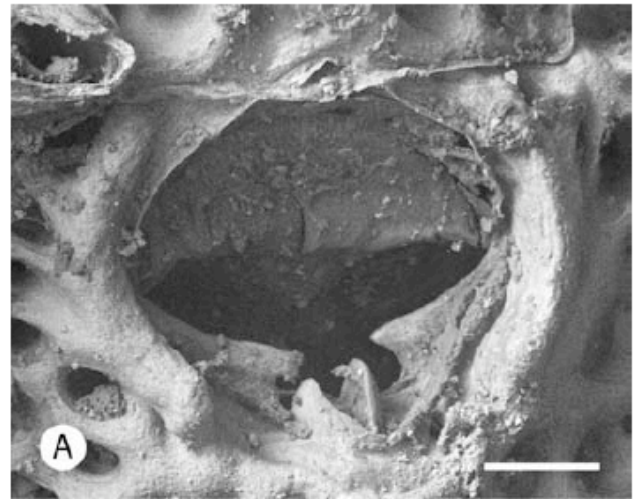


Figure 12 A-C, *Sinupetraliella litoralis* (Hastings, 1932), Holotype BMNH 1932.4.20.61, Low Island, Queensland. A, primary orifice, note the asymmetrically positioned proximal sinus, the triangular lateral denticles, and the suboral avicularium with its serrated mandible. B, groups of autozooids. C, groups of ovicellate zooids showing the characteristic calcification finger-like bars of marginal secondary calcification over the ovicell. A, scale bar 100 μ m; B, scale bar 1000 μ m; C, scale bar 500 μ m.