

STYLOPOMA FRATER SP. NOV.
(Fig. 7A-C)

Material

Holotype: NHM 1999.4.11.28, Stn.989/2B, Cleveland Bay, Great Barrier Reef.

Paratype: NHM 1999.4.11.29, Stn.989/2B, Cleveland Bay, Great Barrier Reef.

Other material examined: NHM 1999.4.11.30, Low Isles, Great Barrier Reef.

Description

Colony an encrusting sheet, often multilaminar and quite extensive. Autozooids irregularly polygonal or hexagonal, slightly convex, separated by distinct grooves. Frontal shield evenly perforated by small round pores (50–70), each set in a large depression, surrounded by a rim of thickened calcification; the marginal pores are larger and more distinct; lateral walls distinct. Primary orifice wider than long, D-shaped, the straight proximal border with a shallow U-shaped median sinus, with parallel sides; condyles shallow, rectangular, lipped, occupying the majority of the proximal border, sloping toward the sinus. One adventitious avicularium proximo-lateral to the orifice, rostrum inclined to frontal plane, disto-laterally directed; mandible acute triangular, crossbar complete. Additional adventitious avicularia often present on frontal shield. Vicarious avicularia not seen. Ovicells prominent, globular, densely porous with a crescentic oval aperture and robust entire proximal labellum, with distinct median suture, overhanging and obscuring the orifice of the maternal zooid. Ovicells may be produced when the colony is unilaminar.

Measurements

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

Autozooid: length, 0.61 ± 0.07 ; width, 0.33 ± 0.05 .

Orifice: length, 0.09 ± 0.01 ; width, 0.13 ± 0.00 .

Sinus length, 0.04 ± 0.00 .

Avicularium: length, 0.11 ± 0.00 ; width, 0.04 ± 0.00 .

Etymology

From *frater*, L. – brother. Named because of its similarity in appearance to *S. novum* sp. nov.

Remarks

Stylopoma frater sp. nov. is similar to *S. novum* sp. nov. from which it differs in possessing a narrower sinus, more acutely triangular adventitious avicularia and a more robust ovicellular labellum.

Distribution

Stylopoma frater sp. nov. has only been recorded from the Great Barrier Reef.

