

STYLOPOMA VELATUM SP. NOV.

(Fig. 11D-F)

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

Material

Holotype: NHM 1998.8.4.147, Iririki Island, Vanuatu. 1–2 m. 9.11.92.

Paratypes: NHM 1998.8.4.145, 146., Iririki Island, Vanuatu. 1–2 m. 9.11.92; NHM 1998.8.4.127, Erakor Island, Vanuatu. reef flat. 11.11.92; NHM 1998.8.4.131, 132, Erakor Island, Vanuatu. reef flat. 11.11.92; NHM 1998.8.4.133, Iririki Island, Vanuatu. 18.11.92; NHM 1998.8.4.134, Erakor Island, Vanuatu. reef flat. 11.11.92.

Other material examined: NHM 1996.2.23.12, Stn.2/15, Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef; NHM 1889.8.21.22 (*Trypostega venusta* specimen) Tizard Reef, South China Sea; NHM 1899.5.1.1096, Tahiti; NHM 1999.4.11.46, Murray Island, Torres Strait; NHM 1999.4.11.47, Low Isles, Great Barrier Reef; NHM 1999.4.11.43-45, Green Island, Great Barrier Reef; NHM 1999.4.11.48,49, Holborn Island, Port Denison, Queensland; NHM 1999.4.11.50, Philippines or Singapore.

Description

Colony encrusting, extensive, unilaminar to multilaminar. Autozooids hexagonal or irregularly polygonal, convex, separated by distinct grooves. Primary orifice D-shaped, wider than long, almost semicircular, anter smooth, proximal border straight; sinus deep, slit-like, parallel-sided; condyles shallow, denticulate, occupying entire proximal edge of orifice. Frontal shield perforated with large round pores (60–80), each surrounded by a rim of thickened calcification; marginal pores and lateral walls distinct. Adventitious avicularium single, lateral oral; rostrum bluntly triangular, inclined to frontal plane, disto-laterally directed, though may be lacking in some colonies. Further adventitious avicularia rarely present. Vicarious avicularia sporadic, as long as autozooids, with a large spatulate rostrum. Ovicells globular, very densely perforated, aperture oval, proximal labellum incomplete, the processes horizontal and flat. Ancestrular complex with five primary zooids.

Measurements

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

Autozooid: length, 0.52 ± 0.03 ; width, 0.36 ± 0.04 .

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

Sinus length, 0.03 ± 0.00 .

Avicularium: length, 0.07 ± 0.00 ($n = 10$); width, 0.05 ± 0.00 ($n = 10$).

Etymology

From *velatus*, L. – covered, concealed. Named because it was a species hidden within material assigned to *Stylopoma duboisii*.

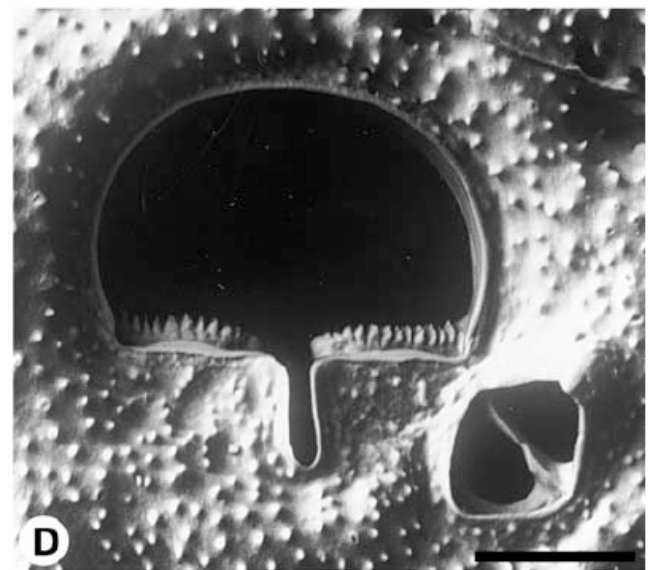
Remarks

Stylopoma velatum sp. nov. is similar to *S. duboisii*, but differs in the shape of the primary orifice: that of *S. velatum* sp. nov. is more nearly semicircular, distinctly wider than long, with more angular corners at the join of the distal and proximal borders, it also has shallower and more markedly denticulate condyles. In *S. duboisii* the orifice is almost as long as wide, and the condyles deeper and smoother; the shape of the ovicell aperture and the labellum also differ: in *S. duboisii* the aperture is D-shaped and the labellum entire, whereas in *S. velatum* sp. nov. the aperture is oval and the labellum split.

Some colonies lack adventitious avicularia although there are still rare vicarious avicularia. *Stylopoma velatum* sp. nov. produces large colonies (up to 10 cm^2), before budding ovicells or substantial amounts of frontally budded autozooids.

Distribution

Stylopoma velatum sp. nov. was the commonest of the four *Stylopoma* species found encrusting coral debris in Vanuatu (see companion paper). It is here recorded from the South China Sea, Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef, Vanuatu and Tahiti. Its distribution appears to be western Pacific, whereas *S. duboisii* appears to be concentrated in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Malaysia. Both species have very extensive geographical distributions.



Stylopoma velatum Tilbrook, 2001, p. 27, fig. 11D-F.

