Steginoporella porteri Maplestone, 1909
Plate 14A

Steganoporella porteri Maplestone, 1909: 412, Fig. 26, Fig. 4.

Steganoporella lateralis: Harmer, 1900: 242, Fig. 12, Fig. 1; Fig. 13, figs 19, 20, 27; Levinsen, 1909: 168, Fig. 5, Fig. 7; Harmer, 1926: 274, Fig. 17, figs 5, 6, 8, 13; Pouyet & David, 1979b: 783, text Fig. 2.

Not *Steganoporella lateralis* MacGillivray, 1895: 53, Fig. 6, Fig. 18.

Steginoporella jellyae Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 54, Fig. 6B, D.

Type material

Holotype: MOV F45057, Solomon Islands (no locality data).

Other material examined

SBMNH 365175-181, **501-87**; SBMNH 365182-184, **407-84**; SBMNH 365185, **413-84**; SBMNH 365186, **411-84**; SBMNH 365187, **401-84**; SBMNH 365188-190, **514-87**; NHM 1899.5.1.261, Tahiti. Hincks Coll.

Description

Colony forming flat, encrusting sheets. Autozooids large (0.98 x 0.60 mm) rounded distally, straight or concave proximally, distinct. Frontal area covered by thick, opaque membrane, pale orange-coloured, bordered by a raised crenulated mural rim. A-zooids with semicircular operculum, slightly narrower than zooid, one quarter its length, dark-brown arching sclerite and a submarginal series of small teeth on inner surface. B-zooids with darker operculum, wider than in A zooids, as wide as zooid, over 60% of length, a submarginal series of six to eight conspicuous, large, stout teeth on inner surface, with four larger than the rest. Cryptocyst occupying about two-thirds total length of autozooid; central portion flat, nodular, with numerous perforations; surrounded by a raised, non-porous, tuberculate rim, particularly prominent at distal edge, i.e. proximal border of opesia, which is generally concave; distal wall raised above frontal plane. Polypide tube rounded, situated centrally and vertically, visible in frontal view, it has a flared distal margin with a pair of lateral "horns", lacking the marginal flanges seen in other *Steginoporella* species. Gymnocyst most prominent as a smooth, raised distal margin surrounding and supporting operculum, ending at lateral opercular condyles, but may be seen as a thin band surrounding entire cryptocyst, lacking an "oral shelf".

Remarks

Steginoporella porteri is characterised by the complete distal edge to its cryptocyst, lacking the median process seen in the other three species, and the opercula of its A- and B-zooids differ in colour, though both have crescentic sclerites. *S. porteri* appears to grow directionally in encrusting, bifurcating, bi- or triserial fingers, though these may spread wider during colony growth.

Tilbrook *et al* (2001) overlooked Maplestone's species *Steginoporella porteri* when they erected *S. jellyae* for *S. lateralis auctt.* non MacGillivray. Although Maplestone (1909) only illustrates 3 autozooids the characteristic complete distal edge to the cryptocyst is obvious. Examination of the Holotype specimen confirms the precedence of *S. porteri* over *S. jellyae*.

It has yet to be confirmed whether d'Hondt (1979) was correct in recording the conspecificity of *Discopora fornicina* Lamarck (1816) with *Steginoporella lateralis* non MacGillivray *sensu* Harmer (1900), and so *S. porteri*, as he only referred to Harmer's text, not his material. However, the fact that he later (d'Hondt, 1994) describes Lamarck's specimen as "érodé et indéterminable" perhaps questions the validity of his original conclusion.

Steginoporella porteri (Maplestone, 1909). Tilbrook, 2006, p.85, pl.14A

Distribution Originally described from the Solomon Islands, Harmer (1900) recorded *Steginoporella porteri* (as *Steganoporella lateralis*) from Torres Strait and Tahiti. The presence of this species from Vanuatu (Tilbrook *et al.,* 2001) suggests that it should be found on suitable reef substrata around the Coral Sea. In the Solomon Islands over a dozen colonies of this species were found at Guadalcanal, Choiseul, and the Florida Islands.