

*Trypostega venusta* (Norman, 1864). Tilbrook, 2006, p.107, pl.18A-B

**\*Trypostega venusta** (Norman, 1864)  
Plate 18A-B

*Lepralia venusta* Norman, 1864: 84, pl. 10, figs 2,3.

*Schizoporella venusta*: Hincks, 1880: 276, pl. 30, figs 6,7; Waters, 1899: 16.

*Trypostega venusta*: Levinsen, 1909 (part): 281, pl. 22, figs 13a-d; Harmer, 1957 (part): 953; Hayward & Ryland, 1979: 258, fig. 111; Hayward & Ryland, 1999: 98, figs 23, 24A, B.

**Type material** Holotype: NHM 1911.10.1.897, Guernsey, 1859, 18 m. Norman Coll.

**Other material examined** NHM 1911.10.1.899, Guernsey, Norman Coll.; NHM 1899.5.1.1117, Guernsey, Hincks Coll.; NHM 1911.10.1.898, Madeira, 1859; NHM 1919.6.25.155, Madeira, Norman Coll.; NHM 1935.6.4.1, Bay of Funchal, Madeira.

**Description** Colony forming broad, thin sheets. Autozooids elongate hexagonal or irregularly polygonal (ca 0.55 x 0.35 mm), convex, distinct, separated by shallow grooves. Frontal shield smooth, perforated by 30-40 large, evenly spaced round pores, less centrally around imperforate umbo proximal to the orifice. Orifice longer than wide (ca 0.12 x 0.10 mm), deep, rounded anter, separated by small, proximally directed, triangular condyles from shallow, bowl-shaped poster. Ovicell prominent rounded, as wide as long, a raised median lobe, orifice of ovicellate zooids as wide as long. Zoeciules appear distal to most autozooids and ovicells, calcification and perforation similar to autozooids, orifice small, deep anter, very shallow poster, mandible rounded.

**Remarks** *Trypostega venusta* is characterised by its primary orifice, frontal shield, relatively sparsely perforated by large pores, and its robust suboral umbo. The suboral umbo in *T. venusta* is present on all autozooids, to a greater or lesser extent, often increasing in height with ontogeny, becoming pointed and often coming to overarch the proximal edge of the primary orifice. The relatively few large pores are also very diagnostic of this species as is the shape of the primary orifice.

**Distribution** *Trypostega venusta* was originally described from Guernsey, The Channel Islands, but it is also to be found from southern Great Britain south to Madeira and into the Mediterranean Sea. Previous references to this species must be viewed with caution (see generic *Remarks* above).

