

*Stephanopora perelegans* (Harmer, 1957). Tilbrook, 2006, p.122, pl.21A,B.

**Stephanopora perelegans** (Harmer, 1957)  
Plate 21A-B

*Gigantopora perelegans* Harmer, 1957: 882, pl. 60, figs 5, 6.

*Stephanopora perelegans*: Gordon, 1993b: 215, figs 31, 32.

**Material examined** SBMNH 365278, 503-87.

**Description** Colony encrusting, forming small spiky patches. Autozooids small (0.35-0.45 x 0.30-0.40 mm), hexagonal, closely-packed, separated by very shallow grooves, lateral walls, conspicuous, curving sinusoidally, two adjoining walls interleaving with each other. Frontal shield umbonuloid, smooth, imperforate apart from single series of three to six elongate oval foramina, situated transversely across the midline, each surrounded by a thin raised rim. Sometimes additional smaller pores proximolaterally adjacent to marginal pores. Primary orifice D-shaped, small triangular condyles laterally, obscured by peristome. Peristome tall, thin, tubular, developing frontally from lateral lobes which join to produce a thickened rim, a large, flared opening remaining proximally, the rim produced into numerous flared, tapered, branching processes which all but cover the zooid. No spines or avicularia. Ovicells not observed, embryos believed to be brooded internally, maternal zooids assumed to have dimorphic orifice.

**Remarks** *Stephanopora perelegans* is a distinctive species characterised by its small size, flared, anastomosing peristome, obscuring a D-shaped primary orifice, and midline foramina.

*Stephanopora perelegans* differs from *S. cribrispinata* in having large frontal foramina along the midline rather than the numerous small foramina seen covering the entire frontal shield in Kirkpatrick's species. However, Gordon (1993b) noted additional smaller pores sometimes present proximolaterally on the frontal shield in *S. perelegans* and concluded that this difference in frontal shield morphology was more a difference in degree than of kind. The flared and branching rims of the foramina in *S. cribrispinata* produce the secondary "frontal shield", produced mainly by the peristome in *S. perelegans*.

**Distribution** Originally described from Sumbawa, Indonesia, from a single colony by Harmer (1957), *Stephanopora perelegans* has not been recorded since then. In the Solomon Islands it was found encrusting a small piece of coral debris from Ruaniu, west of Honiara, Guadalcanal, in association with a colony of *Metroperiella montferrandii*. Gordon (1993b) described material collected from Honiara by Professor S. F. Mawatari (University of Hokkaido, Japan).

