SCHIZOPORELLA DUNKERI (REUSS) (Fig. 15A)

Cellepora dunkeri Reuss, 1848: 90, pl. 10, fig. 27. Schizoporella unicornis form longirostris Hincks, 1886: 266, pl. 10, fig. 2.

Schizoporella longirostris: Hayward, 1976: 320, fig. 1; Hayward & Ryland, 1979 (in part): 173, not fig. 73. Schizoporella dunkeri: Hayward & Ryland, 1995b: 39, pls 2, 3.

Description

Colony encrusting, often extensive. Autozooids large, rectangular, convex, distinct, separated by deep grooves. Frontal shield evenly perforated by numerous round pores, each in a shallow depression; a suboral umbo may be present. Primary orifice as wide as long, almost circular; narrow, slit-like median sinus, often with a rounded, proximal broadening; condyles broad and flat. No oral spines. Adventitious avicularium single, lateral to the orifice and level with the proximal border or sinus; cystid large and prominent; rostrum abruptly tapered distal to complete crossbar, with a slender, acuminate tip; mandible acutely triangular, laterally or distolaterally orientated. Ovicells prominent, globular, regularly perforated.

Distribution

Schizoporella dunkeri, described from the Miocene deposits of the Vienna Basin of Austria (Reuss, 1848), shows a relict Tethyan distribution. It is known from the Pliocene Coralline Crag of Britain and Pliocene deposits in Belgium and The Netherlands (Bishop & Hayward, 1989), is extant from the Canary Islands, Madeira, and the Isles of Scilly, and is common throughout the Mediterranean, especially the Aegean and Adriatic. It purportedly also occurs in the Red Sea (Hayward & Ryland, 1995b). Our record of two small colony fragments of Schizoporella dunkeri from debris at Erakor Island, Vanuatu is the most easterly and most tropical record to date.

