

Labioporella spatulata Harmer, 1926. Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.56, fig.7A.

LABIOPORELLA SPATULATA HARMER

(Fig. 7A)

Labioporella spatulata Harmer, 1926: 283, pl. 21, figs 4–6.

Labioporella bursaria: Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 243, fig. 11c.

Material

Holotype: NHM 1928.3.6.93, Paternoster Island, north of Sumbawa.

Other material examined: NHM 1928.9.13.36, Holborn Island, Port Denison, Queensland; NHM 1998.8.4.249–254, NHM 1998.8.4.161–164, Erakor Island reef flat, Efate, Vanuatu.

Description

Colony unilaminar, encrusting. Autozooids elongate, rectangular, separated by distinct grooves, $0.5\text{--}0.6 \times 0.2\text{--}0.3$ mm. Raised mural rim present, crenulate distally apart from the smoothly rounded middle portion of the distal terminal wall. Gymnocyte absent from autozooids; cryptocyst finely granular, occupying up to three-quarters of autozoid length, with a number of small pores in the middle region, flat, but dipping sharply adjacent to polypide tube. The frontally convex polypide tube has a transversely oval aperture. Vicarious avicularia as large as autozooids; cryptocyst finely granular, imperforate, with an oval foramen through which a transverse, medially thickened septum is visible, so dividing the cystid cavity in half; rostrum less than half length of the avicularium, squared, spatulate, with smoothly rounded gymnocyte calcification; thickened, proximolateral condyles present.

Remarks

Labioporella spatulata is characterized by the lightly granular autozooidal cryptocyst with few, relatively small, pores, by the squared spatulate avicularian rostrum, and the positioning of the oval avicularian foramen relative to the condyles.

The small cryptocystal pores appear to be produced later in ontogeny as they are not present initially, but become more numerous with distance from the growing edge; the cryptocyst also thickens.

Labioporella spatulata differs from *L. bursaria* in that the latter has an avicularium with a more rounded rostrum, and autozooids with a less-pronounced less-crenulate mural wall. Although *L. thornelyae* Harmer, 1926 from Sri Lanka is similar to *L. spatulata*, it differs in having a far narrower spatulate avicularium, which appears to cause its sibling autozoid to be angled towards it; the autozooids of *L. thornelyae* have more numerous pores in the almost tuberculate cryptocyst. *Labioporella cornuta* Harmer, 1926, from south

of Halmaheira (Djilolo), is easily distinguishable from those species already mentioned as it has clear, though minimal, gymnocyte calcification around the autozooids. Finally, in a Torres Straits specimen assigned to *L. crenulata* (Levinsen, 1909) by Harmer (1926) (the locality of the material described by Levinsen is unknown), the avicularium affects the orientation of adjacent autozooids on each side; the rostrum is broadly spatulate and distally rounded and autozooids have very large pores through their granular cryptocyst. This is a new species.

Ryland & Hayward (1992) based their determination of *L. bursaria* from Heron Island on the Haswell specimen (NHM 1928.9.13.36) of *L. spatulata* from Queensland, wrongly identified by Harmer (1926) as *L. bursaria*. Their material should therefore be assigned to *L. spatulata*.

Distribution

Labioporella spatulata was described from a single colony from Indonesia. It has subsequently been found to occur off the coast of Queensland at Heron Island (Great Barrier Reef) and at Vanuatu. On Vanuatu, this species was found encrusting both large and small pieces of coral debris from Erakor Island, Efate.

