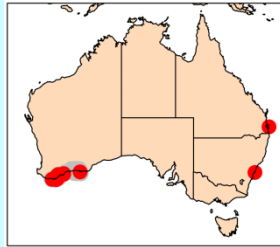


Bassia bassensis

Quoy & Gaimard, 1834



Phylum Cnidaria
Order Calycophorae
Family Abylidae

Synonyms

None

Size

- Anterior nectophore height to 7 mm
- Posterior nectophore length to 15 mm
- Eudoxid bract height to 8 mm

Family notes

- Eudoxid and polygastric stages which are both used to identify species
- Both stages have 2 very dissimilar nectophores, posterior and anterior
- Nectophores rigid, with ridges and no bumps
- Angular shaped anterior nectophore smaller than posterior nectophore; this is diagnostic

Species notes

Polygastric stage

- Nectophores and eudoxids may have bluish tinge to ridges

Anterior nectophore

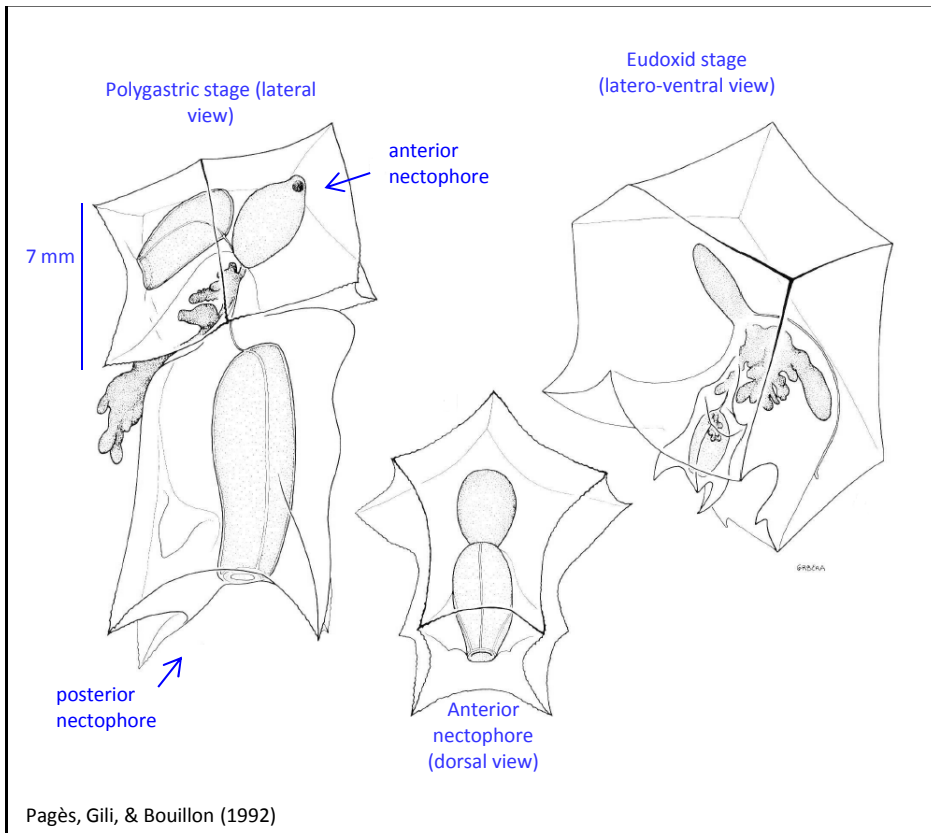
- Polyhedral
- Nectosac does not extend above main body of somatocyst
- No apical diverticulum to the somatocyst
- Somatocyst is large and globular
- Hydroecium does not extend between the nectosac and somatocyst

Posterior nectophore

- Rectangular
- 4 main ridges which end in short basal teeth

Eudoxid stage

- Phyllocyst is a short tube; finger like, without lateral processes
- Gonophore has 4 longitudinal ridges that end basally in minute teeth



Pagès, Gili, & Bouillon (1992)

Preserved specimen
 Maria Island, Tasmania



Bassia bassensis

Quoy & Gaimard, 1834

Phylum Cnidaria
Order Calycothorae
Family Abylidae

Preserved specimen
Maria Island, Tasmania



Distribution

- Epipelagic, temperate waters
- Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans, and Mediterranean Sea

Ecology

- Includes colonies with swimming bells (nectophore) but no float (pneumatophore)
- Long tubular stem extends from swimming bell, from which various zooids are budded in groups (called a cormidium)
- Cormidium consists of shield-like bract, gastrozooid, and one or more gonophores that may function as swimming bell
- Cormidium breaks loose from parent colony and starts independent eudoxid
- Feeds on copepods in the length range 0.4 to 1.2 mm
- Can have significant grazing impact on small copepods, both cyclopoids and calanoids

Source

Gibbons pers. comm. (2012)
Marine Identification Portal (2011)
Pagès, Gili, Bouillon (1992)
Pagès et al. (2001)

(Full reference available at <http://www.imos.utas.edu.au/zooplankton/references>)