

***Integripelta acanthus* n. sp. (Bryozoa: Eurystomellidae)
— a tropical prey species of *Okenia hiroi* (Nudibranchia)**

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Abstract

Integripelta acanthus n. sp., the first known tropical species of Eurystomellidae (Bryozoa, Cheilostomata), is described from Hong Kong. It differs from all other species of the family in that most zooids in the zone of astogenetic repetition bear thorn-like spines. The species is preyed upon by the specialist-feeding nudibranch *Okenia hiroi*.

Key words: Bryozoa, Eurystomellidae, *Integripelta acanthus*, new species, *Okenia hiroi*, Nudibranchia, Goniodorididae, Hong Kong, China

Introduction

The bryozoan family Eurystomellidae Levinsen, 1909 (order Cheilostomata) was founded on two Recent encrusting species — *Lepralia foraminigera* Hincks, 1883 from New Zealand and *L. bilabiata* Hincks, 1884 from western North America — both included in Levinsen's new genus *Eurystomella*. Cook & Chimonides (1981) and Bock & Cook 1996 added the rooted, lunulitiform Australian genus *Selenariopsis* Maplestone, 1913 to the family and Gordon (1984) described a third species of *Eurystomella*, *E. crystallina* from the Kermadec Ridge. With the subsequent discovery of new eurystomellids in New Zealand and Japanese waters, Gordon *et al.* (2002) revised generic attributions and expanded the diversity and distribution of the family in space and time. Grischenko *et al.* (2004) added another fossil species. At present, the Eurystomellidae comprises four genera, 11 Recent species, and three fossil species. *Eurystomella* and *Zygopalme* Gordon, Mawatari & Kajihara, 2002 are presently endemic to New Zealand, *Selenariopsis* remains endemic to Australia, and *Integripelta* Gordon, Mawatari & Kajihara, 2002 occurs in coastal waters of New Zealand, Japan, and western North America. Although the earliest-