

Marianactis bythios Fautin & Hessler, 1989

Cnidaria, Anthozoa, Zoantharia (Hexacorallia), Actiniaria, Actinostolidae

Daphne G. Fautin

Geographical distribution: Known from the vicinity of hydrothermal vents in the Mariana Back-Arc Basin (North-west Pacific; about 18°N, 145°E).

Depth range: 3600 m.

Size: In life, typical column length and oral disc diameter about 125 mm in animal with 50 mm pedal disc diameter; length of inner tentacles about equal to oral disc diameter. Dimensions of contracted specimens 25-30% those of expanded ones.

Diagnosis: White sea anemone with adherent pedal disc; smooth column; tapering, pointed tentacles, the outer ones of which are much

shorter than the inner. Mesenteries not arranged according to *Actinostola*-rule; six pairs complete; stronger ones gametogenic. Tentacles without basal thickenings but with microbasic amastigophores; fewer than mesenteries.

Ecology: Known only from vicinity of hydrothermal vents.

Biology: Unknown.

Reference

Fautin, D.G. & Hessler, R.R. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.* **102**, 815-825 (1989).

