

# Species: *Paragoniolithon solubile*

## Family: Mastophoroideae

**Morphology:** Typically found on rubble, or overgrowing coral. It can be a large 10 cm plant that is often redish purple or mottled pink. White pits are spent/broken conceptacles.

**Surface Texture:** This species has a sub-tesselate surface texture, almost granular. It has a leafy growth form with the margin raised off of the benthos. Trichocytes are loosely grouped.

**Conceptacle morphology:** Large steep volcano shaped domes. The ends are puckered. >1000  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter, single pore.

**Cell structure:** Coaxial hypothallus.

**Tissue thickness:** Medium to thick, 300  $\mu\text{m}$

**Abundance and Ecology:** Can be common, found at 1-50m depth. Can be large and overgrowing coral in high light habitats. Surface texture and color are extremely variable in this species, probably due to light environment.

**Distribution:** Throughout the Caribbean basin. Observed in Belize, Bonaire, Curacao, Florida, Mexico.

**Similar Species:** none, this species has very large and distinct conceptacles.

**Photographs:** A. a typical live plant *in situ*, overgrowing *Porites porites*. B. an *in situ* view of the surface texture and conceptacles. C. The surface texture and conceptacles under the microscope. D. A cross section of the algal thallus showing the coaxial hypothallus (SEM).

**Collection sample numbers:** 51, 77, 87, 98, 100.

