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 μm diameter, single pore.

Cell structure: Coaxial hypothallus.

Tissue thickness: Medium to thick, 300 μm

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.

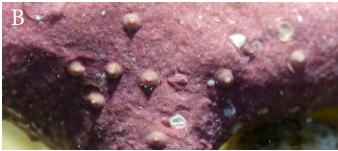
Distribution: Throughout the Caribbean basin. Observed in Belize, Bonaire, Curacao, Florida, Mexico.

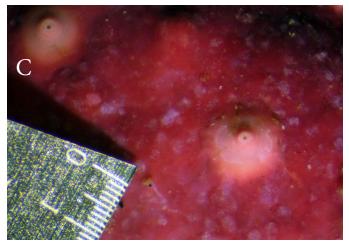
Similar Species: none, this species has very large and distinct conceptacles.

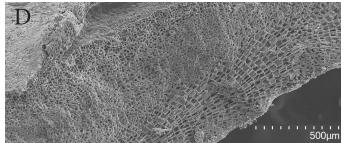
Photographs: A. a typical live plant *in situ*, overgrowing *Porites porites*. B. an *in situ* view of the surface texture and conceptacles. C. The surface texture and conceptacles under the microscope. D. A cross section of the algal thallus showing the coaxial hypothallus (SEM).

Colection sample numbers: 51, 77, 87, 98, 100.









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