

Supplementary Material

Table S1. Zooid morphometrics of *Cellarinella nutti* Rogick 1956, *Cellarinella njegovanae* Rogick 1956 and *Reteporella frigida* Waters 1904. Where present, number of bands (n° band) are reported *per colony per species* in a decreasing order, from the youngest (n° 7 for *C. nutti*, n°5 for *C. njegovanae*, at the proximal part of the branch), below the growing edge, to the oldest part of the branch (n°1); for each band, three positions are reported: distal, middle and proximal. Measurements of zooid length and orifice width - expressed in μm (mean \pm standard deviation (s.d.) - are reported for each position within the band and provided as mean values for each band. Replicate measurements have been conducted on 30 zooids *per band*.

C. nutti

N°of band	Position within the band	Mean zooid length \pm s.d. (per position)	Mean orifice width \pm s.d. (per position)	Mean zooid length \pm s.d. (per band)	Mean orifice width \pm s.d (per band)
7	distal	1192 \pm 99.59	243.33 \pm 77.29		
7	middle	1177 \pm 114.31	353.33 \pm 30.76		
7	proximal	928 \pm 167.54	366.33 \pm 11.54	1118.5 \pm 165.19	321.11 \pm 27.98
6	distal	1178 \pm 65.72	286.66 \pm 15.27		
6	middle	1162 \pm 47.61	316.66 \pm 15.27		
6	proximal	912 \pm 190.18	363.33 \pm 23.09	1087.05 \pm 163.39	322.22 \pm 17.88
5	distal	1044 \pm 109.22	290.33 \pm 20.50		
5	middle	1013 \pm 156.08	356.66 \pm 15.05		
5	proximal	968 \pm 192.53	360.00 \pm 17.32	1011.25 \pm 150.48	335.67 \pm 17.62
4	distal	878 \pm 30.33	244.67 \pm 30.74		
4	middle	956 \pm 67.19	316.83 \pm 14.97		
4	proximal	1050.2 \pm 78.01	350.00 \pm 36.05	960.05 \pm 86.79	303.83 \pm 27.25
3	distal	1142 \pm 21.67	300.00 \pm 0.00		
3	middle	1182 \pm 94.49	303.33 \pm 45.89		
3	proximal	936 \pm 231.79	296.66 \pm 42.42	1110.5 \pm 163.11	300.00 \pm 29.44
2	distal	1020 \pm 92.19	250.33 \pm 15.27		
2	middle	1124 \pm 105.49	326.66 \pm 15.27		
2	proximal	917.5 \pm 206.13	330.00 \pm 10.00	1018.66 \pm 120.05	302.33 \pm 20.30
1	distal	912 \pm 52.15	326.67 \pm 23.09		
1	middle	1136 \pm 265.85	383.33 \pm 19.66		
1	proximal	624 \pm 48.98	330.00 \pm 28.72	989.41 \pm 233.22	346.67 \pm 23.83

C. njegovanae

N°of band	Position within the band	Mean zooid length \pm s.d. (per position)	Mean orifice width \pm s.d. (per position)	Mean zooid length \pm s.d. (per band)	Mean orifice width \pm s.d (per band).
5	distal	1105.00 \pm 163.61	366.67 \pm 41.63		
5	middle	907 \pm 158.95	351.67 \pm 20.41		
5	proximal	972.50 \pm 63.96	330.00 \pm 26.45	994.83 \pm 128.84	209.44 \pm 29.50
4	distal	712.00 \pm 47.64	323.33 \pm 5.77		
4	middle	824.00 \pm 63.48	320.00 \pm 34.64		
4	proximal	1118.33 \pm 55.28	300.33 \pm 0.57	884.78 \pm 53.47	314.56 \pm 13.67

3	distal	722.50 ± 56.78	316.66±23.09		
3	middle	742.00±106.23	316.67±25.17		
3	proximal	1156.00 ± 76.35	312.33±15.27	873.50±79.75	315.56±21.18
2	distal	682.50 ± 27.53	293.33±20.81		
2	middle	720.00 ±85.89	308.33±30.65		
2	proximal	990.00 ± 121.86	300.00±52.91	797.50±78.43	300.56±34.78
1	distal	766.00±47.23	290.00±17.32		
1	middle	786.67±109.77	328.33±27.14		
1	proximal	1070.00±31.62	313.33±5.73	874.22± 62.87	310.56±16.74

<i>R. frigida</i>	Mean zooid length ± s.d.	Mean orifice width ± s.d
	823.33±69.86	192.90±18.24