**Bassia bassensis**
Quoy & Gaimard, 1834

**Phylum**  
Cnidaria

**Order**  
Calycophorae

**Family**  
Abylidae

### Size
- Anterior nectophore height to 7 mm
- Posterior nectophore length to 15 mm
- Eudoxid bract height to 8 mm

### Family notes
- Eudoxid and polygastric stages which are both used to identify species
- Both stages have 2 very dissimilar nectophores, posterior and anterior
- Nectophores rigid, with ridges and no bumps
- Angular shaped anterior nectophore smaller than posterior nectophore; this is diagnostic

### Species notes
- **Polygastric stage**
  - Nectophores and eudoxids may have bluish tinge to ridges
  - **Anterior nectophore**
    - Polyhedral
    - Nectosac does not extend above main body of somatocyst
    - No apical diverticulum to the somatocyst
    - Somatocyst is large and globular
    - Hydroecium does not extend between the nectosac and somatocyst
  - **Posterior nectophore**
    - Rectangular
    - 4 main ridges which end in short basal teeth

- **Eudoxid stage**
  - Phyllocyst is a short tube; finger like, without lateral processes
  - Gonophore has 4 longitudinal ridges that end basally in minute teeth

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**Synonyms**
None

**Compiled:** C. H. Davies & A. S. Slotwinski 2012
**Verified:** M. J. Gibbons 2013 (preliminary)
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Cnidaria

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**Family**  
Abylidae

**Distribution**
- Epipelagic, temperate waters
- Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans, and Mediterranean Sea

**Ecology**
- Includes colonies with swimming bells (nectophore) but no float (pneumatophore)
- Long tubular stem extends from swimming bell, from which various zooids are budded in groups (called a cormidium)
- Cormidium consists of shield-like bract, gastrozooid, and one or more gonophores that may function as swimming bell
- Cormidium breaks loose from parent colony and starts independent eudoxid
- Feeds on copepods in the length range 0.4 to 1.2 mm
- Can have significant grazing impact on small copepods, both cyclopoids and calanoids

**Source**
Gibbons pers. comm. (2012)  
Marine Identification Portal (2011)  
Pagès, Gili, Bouillon (1992)  
Pagès et al. (2001)

(Full reference available at http://www.imas.utas.edu.au/zooplankton/references)