

Beania lagenula new species
Plate 7A-B

Beania mirabilis: Harmer, 1926 (part): 419, Fig.28, fig.15; Rho & Song, 1980: 156, Fig. 3, figs 13-14; Scholz, 1991: 286, Fig.5, figs 3,4; Seo, 1992: 147; Liu, Yin & Ma, 2001: 483, Fig. 27, fig. 3.
Beania cf. mirabilis: Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 51, fig. 5D,F.

Type material Holotype: NHM 2000.4.11.1618, Suva Barrier Reef, Fiji.
Paratype: NHM 2000.4.11.1621, (as Holotype.)

Other material examined SBMNH 365087, 501-87; NHM 1998.8.4.55, Iriki Island, Vanuatu; NHM 2000.4.11.1247, Hook Island, Whitsunday Group, Queensland, Australia; NHM 2000.4.11.1599, Gorgona 3, Colombia, "St. George" Crossland Coll.; NHM 1929.4.26.247, Gorgona 3, Colombia, "St. George" Crossland Coll.; NHM 2000.6.14.6, off Islas Seras, Panama, 17m.

Description Colony diffuse and ramifying, attached to substratum by rhizoids. Autozooids (ca 0.9 mm) flask-shaped, erect, distal portion (free of substratum) wider proximally than distally; frontal membrane occupying all of erect part of zooid. Proximal "stolonic portion" up to twice length of distal portion, originating latero- and medio-proximally from wider proximal end of distal portion. Two pairs of distal spines, one pair on far distal edge, others at junction of distal rim and lateral margins, at hinge of operculum. Six to eight pairs of equally spaced, gracile, marginal spines overarch frontal membrane, but do not meet. Distinct wider gap between distal most pair of marginal spines and spines at operculum hinge. No ovicells or avicularia observed.

Remarks *Beania lagenula* is characterised by its flask-shaped autozooids, the number of marginal spines, and the distinct gap between the distal most marginal spines and the spines at the angle of the operculum hinge.

Beania lagenula has previously been misidentified as *B. mirabilis* Johnston, 1840 (see Remarks in Tilbrook *et al.*, 2001), e.g. Scholz, 1991, who found this species on settlement panels in Cebu Harbour at 2 m depth (but not on panels in the reef area at the same depth). It was one of the fouling species recorded (as *B. mirabilis*) by Liu *et al.* (2001). However, *B. lagenula* differs from *B. mirabilis* in several features: six to eight pairs of gracile marginal spines that overlap each other across the midline, not nine or ten pairs seen in mature *B. mirabilis* that never touch; larger size; greater spacing of zooids; and a characteristic large gap between marginal and oral spines. López Gappa (2001) felt that the recommendation of Tilbrook *et al.* (2001) was unjustified, noting that comparisons of Patagonian material and British specimens of *B. mirabilis* showed only slight differences. It appears that López Gappa (2001) was correct in highlighting the similarities of these two Atlantic populations. His Plates (López Gappa, 2001: figs 1,2,9) agree well with the description of *B. mirabilis sensu stricto* given by Tilbrook *et al.* (2001) and the Adriatic material described and illustrated by Hayward & McKinney (2002). But, the material illustrated by Hayward & McKinney (2002) differs from that illustrated by Tilbrook *et al.* (2001), and herein, as described above. Therefore the erection of a new species to cover material from the tropical Pacific is justified.

Etymology From *lagena*, L. bottle with handles and a narrow neck. Named for the shape of the upright portion of the autozooids.

Distribution *Beania lagenula* appears to be present throughout the tropical Pacific Ocean as a component of the fouling fauna and on shell and coral debris; from the South China Sea, Korea, the Philippines, Queensland, Fiji and Vanuatu in the West to Panama and Colombia in the East. In the Solomon Islands a small colony was found encrusting a colony of *Parantropora laguncula* at Anuha Reefs, the Florida Islands.

