

Hippothyris parviarma Tilbrook, 2006. Tilbrook, 2006, p.185, pl.38E-F.

Hippothyris parviarma new species
Plate 38E-F

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365568, 412-84.

Description Colony unilaminar. Autozooids elongate hexagonal or irregularly polygonal (0.90–1.00 x 0.60–0.65 mm), separated by shallow grooves and obvious lateral walls. Frontal shield thinly calcified, very slightly tuberculate, large imperforate area centrally, surrounded by a single series of large marginal pores, one or more part series developed proximally or laterally. Primary orifice suborbicular, longer than wide (ca 0.18 x 0.17 mm), slightly broader distally, deeply arched anter separated from shallowly concave poster with slight, very shallow, dish-shaped median sinus by short, robust subquadrate downcurved condyles. Slight peristome developed around orifice, particularly proximally and laterally. No oral spines. Single avicularium only, very small (ca 0.05 x 0.04 mm), associated with peristomial calcification, lateral to condyle on one or other side of orifice, boot-shaped, rostrum D-shaped, smooth, crossbar complete, proximally directed. Ovicells recumbent on frontal shield of distal autozooid, morphology not observed.

Etymology From *parvus*, L. little; *arma*, L. weapons. Named for the size of the avicularia.

Remarks *Hippothyris parviarma* is characterised by its frontal shield, with its large imperforate central area and single series of marginal pores, but also by its primary orifice, suborbicular in shape, with its robust condyles and slight median sinus proximally. The size and shape of the avicularia is also diagnostic.

Hippothyris parviarma differs from the three species of *Hippothyris* described from the western Pacific in a number of ways: its longer-than-wide orifice (the others have an orifice wider than long), with a wider, slightly straighter proximal border; the large size of the imperforate frontal area (*H. ordinaria* has a very small area just proximal of the orifice, that of *H. caledonica* and *H. aganactete* being slightly larger); the shape and orientation of the avicularia (both *H. caledonica* and *H. aganactete* have acute, triangular avicularia distally directed and avicularia have not been observed in *H. ordinaria*).

Distribution *Hippothyris parviarma* is known from only a single broken colony encrusting a piece of coral debris, dredged from 300 m off Yandina, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands.

