

Scrupocellaria ferox Busk, 1852. Tilbrook, 2006, p.60, pl.9D-F.

Scrupocellaria ferox Busk, 1852
Plate 9D-F

Scrupocellaria ferox Busk, 1852a: 370.

Scrupocellaria ferox: Busk, 1852b: 25, Fig. 22, figs 1,2,5; Waters, 1913: 476, Fig. 48, figs 11-15, Fig. 49, figs 7,20; Harmer, 1926: 367, Fig. 25, figs 1-6; Lu, 1991: 46, Fig. 4, Fig. 1a,b; Liu, 1991: 69; Scholz, 1991: 284, Fig. 5, Fig. 7.

Scrupocellaria cyclostoma: Kirkpatrick, 1890: 16.

Type material Holotype: NHM 1854.11.15.76, Louisiade Archipelago, "Rattlesnake".
Paratypes: NHM 1899.7.1.779,6540, (as Holotype).

Other material examined SBMNH 365100-102, **409-84**; SBMNH 365103-108, **501-87**; NHM 1899.7.1.778, Australia ("Rattlesnake" - Torres Strait?); NHM 1928.3.6.156,158, "Siboga" Station 7, Batjulmati, Java, reef; NHM 1889.8.21.13, Tizard Bank; NHM 1931.9.16.23, "Albatross" Station 5478, off Tacbuc Point, E. Leyte, Philippines; NHM 2004.6.9.2, OCDN 3223N, Sulu Sea, Philippines.

Description Colony erect. Autozooids appearing large and robust (0.50 x 0.35 mm), with a small, smooth, proximal gymnocystal area, cryptocyst around rounded opesia very narrow and smooth. Scutum wanting. Two inner orificial spines, two or three outer orificial spines, short. Two types of avicularia occur: very small, lateral avicularia on distolateral corner of a few autozooids, distolaterally directed, rostrum triangular, serrated laterally, with a hooked tip, mandible triangular, curved basally with a sharp, hooked tip; large frontal avicularia of two types, on all zooids, bar the axial zooid, cystid is cup-shaped, but laterally compressed, originating proximal to cryptocystal rim, directed laterally but over arching proximal edge of opesia, rostrum curving, outer lateral edge serrated, inner smooth, with a hooked tip, mandible triangular, curved basally and laterally, with a sharp, hooked tip, on axial zooids a larger avicularium is seen, similar in morphology to that just described but approximately four times as large, directed frontolaterally. Ovicells large, smooth with numerous circular or irregularly shaped pores. Single axial vibracula, other vibracula projecting laterally, visible frontally, squared in shape, setal groove directed proximomedially, setae long, curving across length of one autozooid. A rhizoid foramen is present in proximal wall of all lateral vibracula, not on axial vibracula, however, rhizoids usually only present at the base of branch.

Remarks *Scrupocellaria ferox* is characterised by its large size, lack of scutum, and its large, frontal avicularia. The frontal avicularia can vary in size within a colony, often increasing in size along the length of a branch.

Santagata & Banta (1996) describe the overall morphology, brooding and ovicells in this species.

Distribution *Scrupocellaria ferox* has been recorded from throughout Indo-Malaysia and Australia but was originally described from the Louisiade Archipelago, east south east of Papua New Guinea and due west of the Solomon Islands. In the Solomons, this species was found at Choiseul and the Florida Islands.

