

*Scrupocellaria maderensis* Busk, 1860. Tilbrook, 2006, p.63, pl.10D-F.

**Scrupocellaria maderensis** Busk, 1860  
Plate 10D-F

*Scrupocellaria maderensis* Busk, 1860: 280.

*Scrupocellaria maderensis*: Busk, 1861: 77, Fig. 32, Fig. 1; Harmer, 1926: 372, Fig. 25, figs 16-19 (cum syn.); Rho & Song, 1980: 154, Fig. 3, figs 1-3; Gordon, 1984: 47, Fig. 12, figs F,G; Hayward, 1988: 283; Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 237, Fig. 8; Liu, Yin & Ma, 2001: 491, Fig. 28, figs 7,8.

*Scrupocellaria scrupea* var. *dongolensis* Waters, 1909: 134.

Type material Holotype: NHM 1899.7.1.780, Madeira. Busk Coll.  
Paratype: NHM 1899.7.1.796, Madeira, JYJ, 1860.

Other material examined SBMNH 365113, **410-84**; SBMNH 365114, **501-87**; NHM 1928.3.6.166, "Siboga" Station 164, W of N end of New Guinea, 32 m; NHM 1928.3.6.169, "Siboga" Station 310, Sumbawa, E., 73 m; NHM 1889.8.21.30,108, Tizard Reef, 4 m; NHM 1996.2.23.29, Heron Island, Station 88/B7, Great Barrier Reef; NHM 1996.4.26.3, Tamarin, Mauritius, 5 m; NHM 1899.7.1.804 (syntype of *S. scrupea* var. *dongolensis*), Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.

Description Colony erect. Autozooids (0.35 x 0.15 mm) with large, smooth, proximal gymnocystal area, cryptocyst relatively narrow, smooth with a beaded inner edge, terminating with a lateral projection on each side into opesia on which proximal edge of operculum sits; opesia appearing almost as a "Plate of eight" shape. Scutum very robust, originating from inner distal corner of opesia, proximal portion of which it covers almost entirely, lobe broad and rounded, kidney-shaped, over 90% of lobe proximal to point of scutal spine insertion. Two inner orificial spines, two or three outer orificial spines, mostly short. Two types of avicularia occur: large lateral avicularia on distolateral corner of each autozoid, giving branch a serrated outline, distolaterally directed, aquiline, rostrum serrated laterally, with a severely hooked tip, mandible triangular, curved basally with a sharp, hooked tip; frontal avicularia often seen, cystid long, somewhat columnar in shape, originating proximal to cryptocystal rim, directed toward scutal peduncle of neighbouring autozoid, recumbent on gymnocyst, rostrum and mandible similar in morphology to lateral avicularia but much smaller in dimensions, approximately one quarter size. Ovicells smooth with a single circular fenestra, often surmounted by a very small avicularium. Two axial vibracula, other vibracula projecting laterally slightly, visible frontally, triangular in shape, setal groove directed obliquely, setae short, curving across width of branch. A rhizoid foramen is present in proximal wall of all lateral vibracula, not on axial vibracula, however, rhizoids usually only present at base of branch.

Remarks *Scrupocellaria maderensis* is characterised by its large scutum, its large, aquiline lateral avicularia and the recumbent frontal avicularia.

*Scrupocellaria maderensis* has been recorded from many localities almost circum-globally, however, there are slight differences notable within the material assigned to it. All the material possesses the large aquiline avicularia characteristic of this species, but in some colonies these are far smaller (e.g. NHM 1928.9.13.99, Loyalty Islands and NHM 1932.4.20.104, Great Barrier Reef) than those seen elsewhere (e.g. the holotype). The size of the scuta also varies. Other differences can be seen in the size and shape of the vibracular chambers, those from the Solomon Islands are large and triangular, reaching across the midline, while others are longer and less triangular, without reaching across the midline (e.g. NHM 1961.11.2.42, Gulf of Mexico, NHM 1937.9.28.24, Red Sea, NHM 1928.9.13.97, Japan, NHM 1928.3.6.165, Strait of Makassar and NHM 1928.3.6.167, Banda Sea). The morphology of the vibracular chambers in the paratype material is intermediate between these two conditions. It would be profitable to carry out a thorough review of the material assigned to this species, as a complex of morphologically similar species may be present.

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**Distribution** Originally described from Madeira, *Scrupocellaria maderensis* has been recorded almost circum-globally, with NHM material from the Gulf of Mexico, eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Japan, Great Barrier Reef and the Loyalty Islands assigned to this species. In the Solomon Islands a number of colonies were found in both the Russell and Florida Islands. The cited material agrees well with that described from the Solomon Islands.

