

Crepidacantha craticula Tilbrook, 2006, p.276, pl.61E-F

Crepidacantha craticula new species

Plate 61E-F

Crepidacantha carsioseta: Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 277, fig. 25d.

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365756, **514-87**.

Description Colony encrusting, unilaminar. Autozooids hexagonal (0.40–0.50 x 0.30–0.4 mm), separated by deep grooves. Frontal shield convex. Primary orifice slightly trifoliate, longer than wide (ca 0.90 x 0.70 mm), with conspicuous lateral processes, condyles large, acute, triangular, the proximal border produced as a slight, rounded lip. Avicularia paired, one slightly more distal than other, proximolateral of each proximal corner of primary orifice, rostrum elongate-triangular, open-ended, no crossbar, directed proximomedially, mandibles setiform, crossing one another over frontal shield. Ovicell as long as wide, globular, smooth frontal area, crescentic area of pores crossing frontal area near its distal end, i.e. less than one orifice length from ovicell opening.

Etymology From *cratis*, L. wickerwork, hurdle. Named for the appearance of the area of pores crossing frontal area of the ovicell.

Remarks *Crepidacantha craticula* is characterised by its almost trifoliate primary orifice, proximomedially directed avicularia and ovicell as long as wide with a crescent of pores across the frontal area.

Crepidacantha craticula is similar to *C. poissonii* but differs in its less trifoliate primary orifice, and a more globular ovicell with its porous crescent nearer the ovicell opening. *C. craticula* resembles *C. carsioseta* more than *C. poissonii*, though still differing in several ways, e.g. the slightly deeper area of orifice proximal to the lateral indentations, avicularia relatively nearer the orifice than in *C. carsioseta* and, while the ovicells look very similar (Winston & Heimberg's, 1986, figure 65 shows not the cleanest of specimens), *C. craticula* does not produce a suboral umbo.

Crepidacantha craticula differs from *C. longiseta* Canu & Bassler, 1929 and *C. crinispina* Levinsen, 1909 in having avicularia which are proximomedially directed; these latter species have proximally directed avicularia.

Distribution Only a single small colony of *Crepidacantha craticula* was found from Kokomu Tamba Island, Tulaghi Harbour, Nggela Sule, Florida Islands, Solomon Islands in association with *Smittipora philippinensis*. This species was misidentified as *C. carsioseta* at Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef by Ryland & Hayward (1992).

