

*Synnotum contortum* Waters, 1913. Tilbrook, 2006, p.66, pl.8D.

**Synnotum contortum** Waters, 1913  
Plate 8D

*Synnotum contortum* Waters, 1913: 466, Fig. 64, figs 16-18.

*Synnotum contortum*: Harmer, 1926: 396, text Fig. 18, Fig. 27, Fig. 1.

**Material examined** SBMNH 365116, **501-87**; NHM 1928.3.6.217, Salayer, S. of Celebes.

**Description** Colony erect, straggling, proximal areas repent and attached by rhizoids, distal areas circinate. Autozooids paired, distal portion (part 1) constituting an internode (pt 1. = 0.25 x 0.15 mm), frontal area entirely membranous, oval, wider distally than proximally, the distolateral corner of frontal area higher than distomedial corner, no opercular sclerite seen; mid- (part 2) and proximal (part 3) sections of autozooids as in *S. aegyptiacum*. Basal walls smooth. Two types of avicularia present: sessile avicularia, often three per internode, one frontally, between two frontal areas (part 1) from one of which it is probably derived, and two basally, more distal on internode than frontal avicularium, most probably derived from part 1 or part 2, rostrum raised, triangular, slightly hooked distally, with slight lateral projections, mandible triangular, curving basally, proximolaterally directed; short-stalked pedunculate avicularium sometimes replacing a basal sessile avicularium, large, globular, laterally flattened, rostrum sharply hooked distally with large pronounced pair of lateral protrusions, mandible acutely triangular, hooked with denticulate distal edge. Rhizoids produced from proximal end of basal wall of part 1 of autozooids. Gonozooids appear as inflated distal areas (part 1) in internodes that contain two pairs of part 1 of autozooids, one pair more distal than other. The more distal pair of normal size, the more proximal pair inflated, set at an angle to those distally and similar in orientation to those succeeding this complex. Thus the node between these two pairs has been lost but the orientation remains. Harmer (1926) described each gonozooid as terminating in a small tubular structure.

**Remarks** *Synnotum contortum* is characterised by its colony form, in particular the circinate-ly curved branch ends. It is distinguished from *S. aegyptiacum* in having autozooids with wider frontal areas, more sessile avicularia and fewer, but larger pedunculate avicularia. *S. pambaense* has only pedunculate avicularia.

A Canada Balsam prepared specimen from Salayer, S. of Celebes (NHM 1928.3.6.217) shows that the majority of the autozooids in the colony contain brown bodies, with only the most distal internodes on a branch occupied by tentaculate polypides.

**Distribution** *Synnotum contortum* has been recorded from east Africa and Indo-Malaysia to depths of 59 m. In the Solomon Islands a single, small piece of a branch was found at Anuha, Florida Islands.

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