Hiantopora aequicornua new species
Plate 3E-F

Type material — Holotype: SBMNH 365061, **501-87**.

Description — Autozooids encrusting (ca 0.50 x 0.40 mm), oval, with large membranous frontal area. Large unilateral avicularia, distally directed, straight tapering rostrum, with serrate outer lateral edge and hooked tip, raised frontally, mandible long, triangular with slightly hooked tip. Frontal area dominated by two gracile ramifying spinous processes, of equal proportions, originating from each lateral wall, one from proximal end of avicularium, the other from base of a raised, frontally pointing, bifurcating, non articulated spine, with interdigitations that do not appear to fuse. Pair of raised, frontally pointing, non articulated spines on distal wall, bifurcating in distolateral plane and often fusing with frontal spinous processes of distal zooid. Ovicell bilaminar, almost vestigial in appearance, smooth outer ectooecium less well developed than endooecium.

Etymology — From *aequalis*, L. like, same; *cornu*, L. horn. Named for the similarly-sized ramifying spinous processes over the frontal area.

Remarks — ***Hiantopora aequicornua*** is characterised by its gracile frontal spinous processes of equal proportions, but more especially by its straight, unilateral avicularium which has a serrated outer rostrum edge. This is unique within the Recent species of *Hiantopora* examined.

Recent species of *Hiantopora* can be split easily between those with a single avicularium and those with paired avicularia. *H. bidenticulata* and the new species from Japan and Indonesia fall into this latter category. ***H. aequicornua*** is most similar to *H. intermedia* and *H. ovalis* in possessing gracile frontal processes. However, it differs from these species in a number of ways. It has frontal processes of equal proportions, unlike *H. intermedia* in which the process originating below the avicularium is far larger than the process opposite, and those of *H. ovalis* appear to be a little more robust, and to fuse, than those seen in ***H aequicornua***. It differs from to *H. intermedia* and *H. ovalis* in having an avicularium with a straight rostrum with a serrate outer edge, both *H. intermedia* and *H. ovalis* have curved and smooth avicularian rostra. *H. radicifera* differs from ***H aequicornua*** in its lack of frontal processes, whereas the processes of *H. ferox*, and more particularly its avicularium, are far more robust than ***H. aequicornua*** and overarch the frontal membrane, all but obscuring it. The illustration of ***H. pleuroavicularia*** in Liu (1991) is somewhat stylised, but shows that that species has, in general, frontal processes of unequal size, not unlike *H. intermedia*.

Distribution — ***Hiantopora aequicornua*** is only known from a single specimen from the Solomon Islands at Anuha Reefs, Anuha Island, Florida Islands.

Hiantopora aequicornua Tilbrook, 2006, p.35, pl.3E-F