

Hippopodina iririkiensis Tilbrook, 1999

Hippopodina iririkiensis Tilbrook, 1999: 454, fig. 2a, c, e.

Hippopodina iririkiensis: Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 90, fig. 18B.

Type material Holotype: NHM 1997.10.6.27, Iririki Island, Vanuatu.
Paratype: NHM 1997.10.6.28, Iririki Island, Vanuatu.

Other material examined SBMNH 365687, **505-87**; NHM 1997.10.6.58, Magnetic Island, Townsville, Queensland; NHM 2000.4.11.711, Tahiti.

Remarks *Hippopodina iririkiensis* is characterised by its primary orifice, with its small lateral indentations, poster 80% width of anter, shallowly concave proximal border, and the medium-sized, triangular avicularia. The avicularia in this species are shorter and more laterally positioned, and therefore distomedially directed, than those seen in *H. pulcherrima*, ***H. adunca*** and *H. feegeensis sensu stricto*. The colony origin is composed of a triad ancestrula complex.

In his original description of *Hippopodina iririkiensis*, Tilbrook (1999) assumed that Scholz's (1991) record of "*H. feegeensis* morphotype 1", from the Philippines, was identical with the species he was describing from Vanuatu. This was based on Scholz's (1991) Plate and because of the production of a triad ancestrular complex. Tilbrook (1999) did not cite any Philippines material with his original description of *H. iririkiensis*. However, now that it is known that ***H. adunca*** also produces a triad ancestrular complex and is present in the Philippine Islands, Tilbrook's assumption should be questioned, at least until Scholz's Philippine Islands material has been examined.

Distribution Only a single colony of *Hippopodina iririkiensis* was found from the Solomon Islands at Renard Sound, off Yandina, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands. In Vanuatu, however, it was the most spatially dominant and one of the commonest species (Tilbrook *et al.*, 2001).

Originally described from Iririki Island, Vanuatu, *Hippopodina iririkiensis* is widely distributed in the tropical Indo-West Pacific, extending from the Red and Mediterranean Seas, to Queensland, Fiji and Tahiti. Its presence in the Philippines has yet to be verified.