

*Microporella orientalis* (Harmer, 1957). Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.87, fig.19C,D.

*MICROPORELLA ORIENTALIS* HARMER

(Fig. 19C,D)

*Microporella orientalis* Harmer, 1957: 962, pl. 62, figs 25–28, 38.

*Microporella orientalis*: Ristedt & Hilmer, 1985: 137, pl. 3, fig. 3; Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 279, fig. 25e,f.

*Description*

Colony encrusting, unilaminar, forming broad sheets. Autozooids with D-shaped primary orifice, with a straight, finely denticulate proximal edge. Three distal oral spines present in early ontogeny. Frontal shield nodular, densely perforated by small round pores. Ascopore with a slightly raised thickened rim and coarsely denticulate, crescentic lumen. A single adventitious avicularium on each autozooid, proximolateral to ascopore; rostrum abruptly tapered and narrowest distally; mandible setiform or variably broadened, and typically with a pair of short, hooked, lateral processes close to the base. Ovicell more or less spherical, nodular, perforated by minute pores; brooding autozooids develop a medially peaked, thickened peristomial rim distal to the ascopore, fused on each side with the ovicell.

*Distribution*

*Microporella orientalis* was found on discarded tiles and an alga in Port Vila Harbour. Originally described from Indonesia, *M. orientalis* was recorded from the Great Barrier Reef by Ryland & Hayward (1992), who commented that although this species probably occurs throughout the western Pacific and perhaps the Indian Ocean, the wide geographic distribution accorded it by Harmer (1957) should not be accepted without first scrutinizing his specimens and records.

