

Microporella pectinata Tilbrook, 2006, p.211, pl.46A-B.

Microporella pectinata new species
Plate 46A-B

Microporella lunifera: Liu, Yin & Ma, 2001: 663, pl. 68, figs 3–6.

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365639, **506-87**.

Other material examined SBMNH 365640, **501-87**.

Description Colony encrusting, small. Autozooids relatively small, roughly hexagonal, convex, frontal shield nodular (ca 0.45 x 0.35 mm). Primary orifice smooth, as wide as long (ca 0.09 x 0.09 mm), no condyles visible. Six equally spaced spines, four remaining in ovicellate zooids. Ascopore half of one orifice length proximal to orifice, raised, acute to frontal shield, surrounded by a thick rim, its median process small, triangular, the opening reniform. Avicularia single or, more commonly, paired, relatively small, above the lateral walls and surrounded by lateral-wall calcification derived from marginal areolae, positioned slightly distolateral to ascopore, distally or distolaterally directed, the rostrum abruptly tapered, crossbar complete, mandible setiform, length equal to zooid width, no lateral laminae or basal processes. Ovicell imperforate, not personate, globular, prominent, resting on frontal shield of distal zooid, nodular, a series of ribs and grooves basally, giving a “scalloped” edge, proximofrontally the roof of aperture formed into a peak, pointing proximally. Ancestrula tatiform, ten spines around opesia.

Etymology From *pectinatus*, L. comblike, toothed. Named for the sculpturing around basal edge of the ovicells.

Remarks *Microporella pectinata* is characterised by its six oral spines, the raised ascopore and positioning of the relatively small avicularia on the lateral walls. The structure of the ovicell is also characteristic, imperforate with a “scalloped” edge and proximally pointing peak.

The species illustrated by Liu *et al.* (2001) as *Microporella lunifera* (Haswell, 1880) is identical to *M. pectinata* but differs from Haswell’s species in a number of characters. Mature autozooids of *M. lunifera* bear only four oral spines, around an orifice that is wider than long, its avicularia are generally singular (though often lacking) and positioned proximal to the ascopore.

Distribution Two colonies of *Microporella pectinata* were found in the Solomon Islands material on pieces of the alga *Halimeda* sp., one from Mbanika Island, Russell Islands, the other at Anuha Reefs, Florida Islands. This species is also present in seas around the China coast.

