

*Mobunula bicuspis* (Hincks, 1883). Gordon, 1989, p.29, pl.13C

*Mobunula bicuspis* (Hincks)

(Plate 13,C)

*Mucronella bicuspis* Hincks, 1883: 201.

*Mucronella biincisa* var. *bicuspis*: Jelly 1889: 190; Hutton 1891: 105, 1904: 297; Hamilton 1898: 195.

*Umbonula bicuspis*: Brown 1952: 305 (*cum syn.*); Powell 1967: 230; Gordon 1967: 57; Uttley & Bullivant 1972: 31.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: NZOI: Stns B477, B488, B493, B498, B616, C871, D269, D272, D273, E820, Q686. DPG: Goat Island Bay, Castlepoint; also BM(NH) 1950. 11.6.12 (part), *Umbonula ovicellata* (type species of *Umbonula*), from Lough Ine, southern Ireland.

DISTRIBUTION: Three Kings Islands, Goat Island Bay, Waitemata Harbour, Napier, Castlepoint, Marlborough Sounds, western approaches to Cook Strait, Kaikoura, Chatham Rise, Otago shelf, Fiordland, western approaches to Foveaux Strait, Stewart Island; 0-220 m.

DESCRIPTION: Colony encrusting. Zooids relatively deep-bodied (to 0.57 mm), 0.53-1.03 × 0.42-0.64 mm, the frontal shield covering about half the underlying membrane, very convex, rising to a stout suboral column, or umbo which usually bears a round-mandibled avicularium on its distal face and 0-2 smaller avicularia apically; marginal areolae occur, with ridges between. Peristome with a pair of blunt lateral denticles simulating condyles, and a pair of prominent denticles proximally; 3-4 oral spines usually present. Up to 3 additional adventitious avicularia frontally and marginally; all avicularia with crossbars and usually round, denticulate rostral rims. Ovicell prominent, much wider than long, finely and evenly perforate. No pore-chambers; mural septula present. Polypide with 17 tentacles.

REMARKS: As Brown (1952) remarked, "this species is puzzling in its affinities". The frontal shield is umbonuloid, with parallel fibrous ultrastructure beneath, but the orificial denticles and ovicell are reminiscent of the cryptocystidean family Petraliellidae. Nevertheless there are resemblances to the type species of *Umbonula* in the overall form of the zooid.

On balance, I consider the present species distinctive enough to represent a new, presently monotypic, genus — it differs from the three British and European species of *Umbonula* for example, in having a non-cormidial orifice (cf. Sandberg 1977, plate 4, fig. 2) with oral spines, well-developed supraopercular denticles, and especially the finely porous ovicell. In life, *M. bicuspis* is an intense dark orange colour.

The generic name is an anagram of *Umbonula*.

