

**Plesiocleidochasma** (Harmer, 1957)  
**laterale** Plate 64C-D

*Cleidochasma laterale* Harmer, 1957: 1044, pl. 71, fig. 9-11.

*Cleidochasma laterale*: Dumont, 1981: 636; Powell, 1967a: 174, text-figs 3a,b.

*Plesiocleidochasma laterale*: Soule, Soule & Chaney, 1991: 475, pl. 1, fig. 5; pl. 3, figs 1-2.

*Plesiocleidochasma laterale*: Liu, Yin & Ma, 2001: 707, pl. 79, figs 3-5.

**Material examined** SBMNH 365769-774, **401-84**; SBMNH 365775-776, **403-84**; SBMNH 365777-778, **407-84**; NHM 1899.7.1.5343, Persian Gulf, Busk Coll.

**Description** Colony encrusting, unilaminar or multilaminar. Autozooids irregularly polygonal (0.50–0.65 x 0.35–0.50 mm), frontal shield imperforate apart from three to six marginal pores, becoming granular and convex with ontogeny, a number of nodular mounds produced around the margin. Primary orifice clithridiate (ca 0.15 x 0.11 mm), anter deeply rounded, separated from the shallow, bluntly arrow-shaped poster by pair of small, lateral condyles. Three oral spines. Avicularia single or paired, proximolateral to orifice, large, acuminate, varying in size, the rostrum rounded-triangular, with extensive rostral palate and trifoliate opesia, the crossbar complete, thickened, directed distally; other smaller avicularia sometimes seen, similar in shape to those above but smaller and directed proximally. Ovicells globular, imperforate, becoming quickly immersed, frontal labellum proximally, incised laterally on both sides, not closed by maternal operculum.

**Remarks** *Plesiocleidochasma laterale* is characterised by its three oral spines and its rounded-triangular avicularia distally directed.

**Distribution** Originally described from off north New Guinea (Irian Jaya), *Plesiocleidochasma laterale* has a widespread distribution in the Indo-West Pacific, having been recorded previously from the Persian Gulf, Amirante Islands, Maldives, South China Sea, Indonesia, Solomon Islands and Fiji. Hayami's (1975: 109, pl. 15, fig. 1) record from the Pliocene of Japan must be re-examined. *P. laterale* appears to be spread throughout the Solomon Islands, having been collected from Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Florida Islands and the Russell Islands.

