

***Rhynchozoon ardeolum* sp. nov.**
(Fig. 30d,e)

TYPE MATERIAL

HOLOTYPE: GH5238, Heron Island, Stn 25, 18 Apr 1972.

ETYMOLOGY

Latin, diminutive of *ardea*, a heron.

DESCRIPTION

Colony forming broad, multilaminar patches. Autozooids irregularly oval to polygonal, strongly convex, separated by well-marked sutures; commonly $0.45\text{-}0.5 \times 0.35\text{-}0.4\text{mm}$. Frontal wall thickly calcified, distinctly corrugated, with a single series of round marginal pores. Primary orifice slightly wider than long, with a short, rounded sinus, bounded by thickened cusps, below blunt, rounded condyles. No oral spines.

Many autozooids bearing a very large lateral oral avicularium, with a swollen cystid occupying much of the frontal wall of the autozooid; rostrum broadest proximally, the distal portion, bearing the mandible, elongate, narrow, curved and rounded at the tip, acute to the frontal plane of the autozooid and directed disto-laterally; total length of rostrum $0.3\text{-}0.35\text{mm}$. Additional avicularia sparsely developed, shorter than the lateral oral type, with a narrowly triangular rostrum distal to the mandibular condyles. In later ontogeny frontal calcification thickens, the marginal pores become much accentuated, and three or four stout, conical processes develop around the disto-lateral borders of the orifice, which, however, remains distinct, though partially immersed, and never completely hidden. Ovicells not present.

Measurements (means and standard deviations of 20 values, mm): orifice length (incl. sinus) 0.12 ± 0.004 ; width 0.12 ± 0.005 .

REMARKS

This species is readily distinguished from all other presently known species of *Rhynchozoon* by its unusually large lateral oral avicularium, and by its very distinctive primary orifice. It was present in two of the Heron Island samples.

