

Parasmittina ovilirata new species
Plates 29F; 32D-F

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365442, **501-87**.
Paratypes: SBMNH 365443-453, **501-87**.

Other material examined SBMNH 365454-455, **515-87**; SBMNH 365456-459, **411-84**; SBMNH 365460-461, **408-84**; SBMNH 3654462, **409-84**.

Description Colony multilaminar. Autozooids hexagonal to irregularly polygonal, convex (ca 0.50 x 0.40 mm). Frontal shield almost smooth, slightly granular, marginal pores large, well spaced. Primary orifice round, as long as wide (0.11 x 0.11 mm), distal border smooth, lyrula broad, occupying the one third proximal border, relatively deep, i.e. almost as deep as wide, anvil-shaped, with pointed corners and straight distal edge, condyles quite thick, downcurved, sharply pointed. One or two oral spines. Peristome well developed laterally, as paired lappets. Avicularia common, dimorphic: originating lateral oral from a marginal pore, single or paired, proximally directed, rostrum on raised cystid, acute, triangular, with arched, denticulate, lateral edges, seemingly replacing one side of peristome; occasionally a single avicularium, originating lateral-orally, proximally directed, extending whole length of autozooid, rostrum narrow, proximally, widely spatulate distally, with denticulate rounded tip, crossbar slender, palatal foramen large, rounded triangular, proximal opesia semicircular. Ovicell globular, prominent, recumbent on frontal shield of distal autozooid, wider than long, perforated by many irregularly-shaped pores, imperforate, ooeccial cover developed by encroaching peristome, forming a complete rim above ovicell aperture, sutures apparent, raised ridge of ooeccial cover along distal edge of fenestra of porous calcification.

Etymology From *ovum*, L. egg; *liratus*, L. plow. Named for the raised ridge of ooeccial cover along the distal edge of the ooeccial fenestrum.

Remarks *Parasmittina ovilirata* is characterised by its primary orifice, the broad, deep lyrula and downcurved, sharply pointed condyles. The dimorphic avicularia and the smoothness of its frontal shield are also diagnostic, as is the ridged and sutured secondary ooeccial covering.

The primary orifice of *Parasmittina ovilirata* is similar to *P. aculeata* as discussed above. It is also reminiscent of *P. fistulata*, *P. onychorrhynca* Ryland & Hayward, 1992 and *P. rimula*. While the shape of the condyles is similar however, the lyrula in *P. ovilirata* is broader and deeper than that of *P. fistulata* and *P. rimula* and narrower and deeper than that of *P. onychorrhynca*. While all four species produce enlarged spatulate avicularia, only *P. ovilirata* and *P. rimula* produce triangular oral avicularia, however, those in *P. ovilirata* seemingly replace one side of the peristome, whereas in *P. rimula* they occur proximal to the orifice and are often paired. The other two species produce oval or shoe-shaped avicularia, either proximolaterally (*P. onychorrhynca*) or proximofrontally (*P. fistulata*).

Distribution *Parasmittina ovilirata* is only known from the Solomon Islands, where it was the second commonest species. It was found from Raun Island, Yandina, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands, Taora Passage between Choiseul and Vealaviru, Gibson Island, Hamilton Passage, Choiseul, and Utuha, Mboli Passage, between Nggela Sule and Nggela Pile, and Anuha Reefs, Anuha Island, both in the Florida Islands.

