

**Pleurocodonellina** new species  
**microperforata** Plate 37C-D

*Pleurocodonellina signata*: Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 78; Liu, Yin & Ma, 2001: 632, pl. 59, figs 1-3.

Type material      Holotype: SBMNH 365550 **401-84**.  
Paratypes: SBMNH 365551-556 **401-84**.

Other material examined      SBMNH 365557, **409-84**; NHM 1998.8.4.150, Iririki Island, Vanuatu; NHM 1998.8.4.151, Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu.

Description      Colony a unilaminar sheet. Autozooids rectangular or irregularly polygonal, flat, separated by distinct, thickened marginal walls (ca 0.50 x 0.30 mm). Frontal shield modestly calcified, relatively smooth but with dimpled effect, becoming more granular with ontogeny, bordered by a series of medium-sized, marginal pores. Primary orifice as long as wide (ca 0.11 x 0.10 mm), with an almost square, drop-shaped proximal sinus occupying almost one third of overall length and separated from anterior by robust, triangular condyles, these minutely denticulate, pointing medially; encircled by a thin, very low, peristomial rim. One or two oral spines. Avicularia single or paired, small, proximo-lateral to orifice, short, triangular rostrum, twice as long as wide, raised laterally, arching, pointed distally, rounded proximally, with slender crossbar, proximo-laterally directed. Ovicell prominent, globular, wider than long, a wide, crescentic series of small, round pores (ca 40) frontally.

Etymology      From *micro*, Gr. small; *perforare*, L. to bore. Named for the small size of the pores in the perforate crescent on the ovicell.

Remarks      *Pleurocodonellina microperforata* is characterised by its almost square sinus, very low peristome and its small, triangular avicularia, directed proximo-laterally. The size and number of pores in the perforate crescent on the ovicell are also characteristic.

*Pleurocodonellina microperforata* is most similar in appearance to *P. macroperforata* differing in the orientation of the avicularia and the number and size of pores in the ovicell. In *P. microperforata* the avicularia are often paired and generally point proximolaterally, those of *P. macroperforata* are always single and point proximomedially. *P. microperforata* has smaller and more numerous pores in its ovicell than *P. macroperforata*. The oral sinus of *P. microperforata* appears slightly wider than that of *P. macroperforata*. *P. microperforata* is also similar in appearance to *P. signata*, with which it has been mistaken on more than one occasion, e.g. Tilbrook *et al.* (2001) and Liu *et al.* (2001). It differs, however, from *P. signata* in having smaller avicularia, which are shorter, arching away from the frontal shield, and more triangular in shape, and in having a lower peristomial rim than that seen in *P. signata*.

Distribution      *Pleurocodonellina microperforata* has been recorded previously, as *P. signata*, from Vanuatu and the East and South China Seas. In the Solomon Islands it was the second commonest of the five species of *Pleurocodonellina* being found from Mbona Bay, Honiara, Guadalcanal and Gibson Island, Hamilton Passage, Choiseul.

