

***Smittoidea incucula* sp.nov.**  
(Fig. 12C,D)

**MATERIAL EXAMINED**

HOLOTYPE: QMG304952, Stn. 16.

**DESCRIPTION**

Colony an encrusting, multilaminar sheet. Autozooids polygonal to irregular in outline, convex, separated by thin, raised sutures. Primary orifice slightly wider than long; distal edge with indistinct denticulation; proximal edge with a conspicuous, thickened lyrula, with convex edge and rounded corners, occupying about half its width; condyles narrow, downcurved, with finely toothed edges. Six distal oral spines present in early ontogeny, obscured by the development of a thin, raised peristome. Frontal shield irregularly nodular, with large, round marginal pores in single or double series. Avicularium almost perpendicular to lyrula, enclosed within peristome; wedge-shaped, broadest across the pivot bar, tapered distally; a thick columella present. Ovicell as broad as long, flattened frontally, with numerous irregularly sized pores; obscured by a sutured oocelial cover.

Measurements (means and standard deviations of 10 values, mm): autozooid length  $0.52 \pm 0.07$ ; width  $0.33 \pm 0.04$ ; orifice length  $0.12 \pm 0.01$ ; width  $0.12 \pm 0.005$ .

**REMARKS**

There are relatively few tropical species of *Smittoidea*, and in reef habitats the genus is usually overshadowed by a diverse fauna of *Parasmittina* species. *Smittoidea incucula* is readily distinguished from other described species by its large, anvil-shaped lyrula and downcurved condyles, and the six distal oral spines. It was not common on the Heron Island reef flat, occurring in just two samples.

**ETYMOLOGY**

Latin, diminutive of *incus*, an anvil.

