

Reptadeonella sicilis Tilbrook, 2006. Tilbrook, 2006, p.132, pl.23C-D.

Reptadeonella sicilis new species
Plate 23C-D

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 265313 **501-87**.
Paratypes: SBMNH 265314-315 **501-87**.

Other material examined SBMNH 265316-317, **408-84**; SBMNH 265318-323, **401-84**.

Description Colony unilaminar. Autozooids hexagonal or irregularly polygonal (0.45–0.55 x 0.30–0.40 mm). Frontal shield finely granular, with single, round or slightly oval spiramen in depression at centre of zooid, and a single series of small, closely spaced, marginal pores; further accessory pores appear to develop frontally and distally later in ontogeny. Primary and secondary orifices almost circular, the latter surmounting a short peristome, only developed laterally and distally. Avicularia dimorphic, either: suboral, with triangular rostrum, the distal tip tapering to a point free of frontal surface, directed distolaterally; or, large, gently curving and sickle-shaped, originating lateral of spiramen, looping distally towards orifice, the rostrum replacing one side of peristome, expanded proximally, narrowing distally, with smooth lateral edges, outer edge higher than inner, no crossbar. Autozooids bearing large avicularia larger in size than autozooids bearing smaller suboral avicularia. Additional avicularia, similar in size and shape to suboral avicularia, often produced later in ontogeny at proximal end of autozooid, randomly directed. Gonozooid morphology unknown. Colony origin unknown.

Etymology From *sicilis*, L. sickle. Named for the curving-shape of the frontal avicularia.

Remarks *Reptadeonella sicilis* is characterised by its large, sickle-shaped avicularia and almost circular secondary orifice. The presence of additional frontal avicularia is also noteworthy.

Reptadeonella sicilis is similar to *R. joloensis* in producing large avicularia that affect the shape of the secondary orifice, however, the avicularia in *R. sicilis* are far larger than those seen in *R. joloensis* and originate lateral to the spiramen not distal to it. *R. sicilis* is also very similar to *R. phelleaphila*, the pair differing in two ways: in the size of their zooids, *R. phelleaphila* is the larger; and that *R. phelleaphila* has a circular primary orifice and a kidney-shaped secondary orifice which is minutely denticulate around both proximal and distal borders.

Distribution *Reptadeonella sicilis* is known only from the Solomon Islands where it was found at Anuha Island, Florida Islands; Taora Passage, between Choiseul and Vealaviru, and Mbokona Bay, Honiara, Guadalcanal.

