Beania cookae Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.48, fig.5E,G.

***BEANIA COOKAE* SP. NOV.**
(Fig. 5E,G)

Beania klugei Hayward & Ryland, 1995a: 542, fig. 6A, B.

Material

Holotype: NHM 1998.8.4.48, Poanangisu, Efate.

Paratypes: NHM 1998.8.4.49,50, NHM 1998.8.4.275, Erakor Island reef flat, Efate, 11.11.1992; NHM 1998.8.4.51, Port Vila Harbour, Efate; NHM 1998.4.8.52, Paonangisu, Efate.

Description

Colony diffuse, uniserial, forming branching chains of slender, almost parallel-sided, autozooids. Frontal surface of autozooids entirely membranous. Spines may be lacking, except for a pair of short, acute distal processes; however, some autozooids may produce one or two further pairs of short lateral spines, one-third or two-thirds of their length proximally along the margin. Each autozooid bears a small pair of frontally facing pedunculate avicularia, attached laterally, adjacent to the operculum; rostrum highly domed, as deep as long; mandible acutely triangular. Autozooids are budded from a single distobasal septulum, and paired proximolateral septula. No ovicells were observed.

Measurements

Holotype: means and standard deviations, mm.

Autozooid length 1.23 ± 0.11 ($n = 23$); avicularium 0.11–0.13 × 0.09–0.10.

Etymology

Named for bryozoologist Patricia L. Cook.

Remarks

Beania cookae is very similar to *Beania klugei* Cook, 1968; however, despite being of a comparable size (if not a little larger), it produces occasional lateral marginal spines and has shorter, more-domed avicularia. The avicularia resemble those seen in *B. intermedia* (Hincks, 1881b), from Tasmania and New Zealand, but this species is only just over half the size of *B. cookae*.

Younger zooids have no marginal spines, just two pairs of distal processes in the form of simple evaginations of the zooidal wall, one pair on the very distal edge and the other pair at the corner of the operculum. It may be that these latter processes are the precursors of the avicularia as they are not seen in zooids bearing avicularia. In later ontogeny two to four marginal spines may be present, proximal to the avicularia.

Other specimens of *Beania* were found at Poanangisu and Erakor Island but they were unidentifiable as either *B. klugei* or *B. cookae*.

Distribution

The Heron Island material attributed to *Beania klugei* by Hayward & Ryland (1995a) bears the short, domed avicularia of *B. cookae*, and is accordingly assigned here to this species.

In Vanuatu, *B. cookae* was fairly abundant in the material from Poanangisu, Erakor Island, and Vila Harbour, Efate, encrusting cryptic habitats in coral rubble.