

*Beania klugei* Cook, 1968. Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.46.

*BEANIA KLUGEI* COOK

*Beania klugei* Cook, 1968: 164, fig. 2A,B.

*Beania klugei*: Cook, 1985: 119.

Not *Beania klugei*: Hayward & Ryland, 1995a: 542, fig. 6A,B.

*Description*

Colony forming diffuse, branching, uniserial chains of slender autozooids. Autozooids almost parallel-sided, strongly tapered proximally; frontal surface entirely membranous. Spines lacking except for a pair of short, pointed distal processes. Each autozooid bears a small pair of frontally facing pedunculate avicularia, laterally adjacent to the operculum; rostrum far longer than deep; mandible acutely triangular, tip hooked. Autozooids budded from a single distobasal septulum and from paired proximolateral septula. No ovicells observed.

*Remarks*

Cook (1968) first distinguished this species from *B. intermedia* (Hincks, 1881b), from which it differed in having larger autozooids, comparatively smaller slender avicularia, and no marginal spines. *Beania klugei* was shown to be distributed from the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea to West Africa, the Caribbean, and Panama, while *B. intermedia* occurred in the Southwest Pacific. *Bugula klugei* of Hayward & Ryland (1995a) from Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef, had large autozooids and lacked marginal spines, but its avicularia are more similar to those of *B. intermedia*, with a highly domed profile. Their material is here referred to *Beania cookae* sp. nov. (see below) which occurred abundantly at two of the sites sampled in Vanuatu. Cook (1985) discussed the possibility that *B. klugei* may prove to be a junior synonym of *Bugulella clavata* Hincks, 1887, described from the Mergui Archipelago and subsequently reported and described by Menon & Nair (1969) from the Gulf of Manaar. Hincks' species lacks a type specimen and so this possibility cannot be further examined. The few autozooids found in Vanuatu are very similar in size (length approx. 1.00 mm) to those described by Cook (1968), as are their avicularia (0.13–0.15 × 0.06–0.07 mm).

*Distribution*

*Beania klugei* was originally described from West Africa, but was shown to have a tropical/subtropical distribution from the Red Sea and Zanzibar to the Caribbean. Its putative first record from Australia (Hayward & Ryland, 1995) is here rejected, but its presence in the Southwest Pacific is established by the fragmentary specimens from Erakor Island.