

Beania petiolata Harmer, 1926. Tilbrook, 2006, p.46, pl.6C.

Beania petiolata Harmer, 1926
Plate 6C

Beania petiolata Harmer, 1926: 416, Fig. 28, figs 18,19.

Beania petiolata: Rho & Seo, 1985: 9, Fig. 3, fig. 3; Liu, 1991: 73; Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 48, fig. 4E,F; Liu, Yin & Ma, 2001: 481, Fig. 27, fig. 1.

Type material Holotype: NHM 1928.3.6.243, South of Halmahera, Indonesia, 45m.

Other material examined SBMNH 365084-086, 501-87.

Description Colony forming thin reticulate sheets loosely attached to substratum. Autozooids boat-shaped (0.70 x 0.30 mm), equally spaced and connected to neighbours by six short tubes, each also has a single, tubular basal pore proximal to most distal connecting tube. Autozoid frontal wall entirely membranous, six short, straight, distal marginal spines, four on distal margin and one bifurcating spine adjacent to each distally placed avicularium, two longer distally directed basal spines, and five to six pairs of equally spaced, longer, bifurcating lateral marginal spines, each with one ramus incurved over frontal membrane, the other ramus at 45° to first, directed frontolaterally. Avicularia paired, frontally facing, lateral to operculum, attached basal to frontal rim; short with a squared head, rostrum slightly hooked, mandible triangular. No ovicells observed.

Remarks The material of *Beania petiolata* from the Solomon Islands is very similar to that illustrated by Liu *et al.* (2001) in having more marginal spines, each with more rami, than those described from the type specimen (above) and seen in material from Vanuatu (Tilbrook, *et al.*, 2001). The Solomon Islands material has up to 15 pairs of marginal spines, many of which are tri-ramous, the rami diverging at angles of between 45-60°. However, these specimens are identical in the structure of their avicularia to the type material of this species and so are here assigned to *Beania petiolata*.

The material illustrated from the South China Sea (Liu *et al.*, 2001) appears to show brooding zooids; the smooth distal cap-like extensions, devoid of distal spines, shown in the two zooids on the left of their Plate are reminiscent of these structures seen in other *Beania* species (e.g. *B. plurispinosa* Uttley & Bullivant, 1972).

Distribution Originally recorded in Malaysia and New Guinea, *Beania petiolata* has subsequently been described from the South China Sea, Korea and Vanuatu. In the Solomon Islands it was collected from Anuha Reefs, Anuha Island, the Florida Islands.

