Alderina tuberosa (Canu & Bassler) (Plate 4, E,F)

Membraniporidra tuberosa Canu & Bassler, 1929a: 107.
Aplousina nodulosa Uttley, 1949: 183; Uttley & Bullivant 1972: 15.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: NZOI Stns K795, K819, K820, K871; on *Pecten*.

DISTRIBUTION: Cook Strait, Chatham Rise, Foveaux Strait; Philippines. Also known from the Pliocene of Waipukurau.

DESCRIPTION: Colony encrusting. Zooids oval to hexagonal, 0.52–0.83 × 0.37–0.63 mm. Proximal gymnocyst smooth, reduced, with 1–2 smooth tubercles. Cryptocyst coarsely granular, broader proximally. Opesia oval to pyriform, wider proximally. Ovicells subquadrate to subpyramidal, raised though partly immersed, smooth distally and laterally, with a triangular to subquadrangular granular area frontally. No spines or avicularia. Occasional sub-circular kenozooids, smaller than autozooids, with relatively broad granular cryptocyst. Usually one distal pore-chamber and two in each lateral wall.

REMARKS: The genus *Alderina* is not well known from the Pacific. Canu and Bassler (1929a) reported the type-species, *A. imbellis* (Hincks) from the Philippines, but the photograph of their specimen is inconclusive. They also suggested (loc. cit.) that their *Membraniporidra tuberosa* might be an *Alderina* and with this I agree. But for the proximal tuberosities on many zooids it might be conspecific with *A. imbellis*.

With Harmelin's (1973) discovery that Mediterranean colonies of erstwhile *Alderina solidula* (Hincks) may have vicarious avicularia and ought therefore to be classified as a *Crassimarginatella*, the distinctions between these two genera became less certain. *Alderina*, as defined, lacks avicularia, but if a character may be present or absent in different parts of the range of a species, its taxonomic value is diminished. On the basis of the many *Crassimarginatella*-like species in the New Zealand region, the ovicell of *Crassimarginatella s.s.* has a smooth frontal fenestra; that of *Alderina*, based on the type-species and *A. tuberosa*, is granular. On this basis also, *A. solidula* is placed in *Crassimarginatella*, for it has a smooth fenestra. Similarly, Osburn's (1950) *Alderina smitti* from tropical America may not be an *Alderina*. It has a smooth, unsculptured ovicell.