

*Scrupocellaria spatulata* (d'Orbigny, 1851). Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.51, fig.5A.

*SCRUPOCELLARIA SPATULATA* (D'ORBIGNY)

(Fig. 5A)

*Cellularia spatulata* d'Orbigny, 1851: 50.

*Scrupocellaria spatulata*: Harmer, 1926: 382, pl. 26, figs 1–10; Winston & Heimberg, 1986: 7, figs 11–12 (cum syn.); Hayward, 1988: 283; Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 237, fig. 9.

*Distribution*

*Scrupocellaria spatulata* is widely distributed throughout the Indo–West Pacific region, having previously been reported from eastern Australia, East Africa, and the Philippines. Its occurrence at localities in Vanuatu provides the most easterly report so far. D'Hondt & Gordon (1996) recorded and illustrated *S. spatulata* from New Caledonia, but in their description they mention not having observed ovicells, whilst figuring a specimen which clearly has ovicells, and although none of the characteristic avicularia are figured, they reported them as present in specimens from southern New Caledonia. This species was quite common at Erakor Island and Port Vila Harbour on small pieces of coral rubble and in loose debris. It appears to be a frequent component of cryptic coral reef communities.

