Cornuticella taurina (Busk)   (Plates 10, I-O; 11, C-D)

Catenicella taurina Busk, 1852a: 12; Jelly 1889: 39.
Catenaria cornuta: Levinsen 1909: 256.
Cornuticella cornuta: Wass & Yoo 1975: 810.
Cornuticella taurina: Harmer 1957: 783; Banta & Wass 1979: 20; Wass
    & Banta 1981: 378.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: NZOI: Stns B477, B480, B482, B493, B495, B498, E796, M779. DPG: Colonies from Makara, coll. 3 April 1983; Oteranga Bay, coll. K.R. Grange, 28 April 1982, 40 m depth.

DISTRIBUTION: Makara, Cook Strait, Fiordland; 30-251 m. Also Victoria, South Africa.

DESCRIPTION: Colony erect, branching, comprising jointed segments of 1-2, rarely three, zooids. Single zooids, including distolateral corners, 0.43-0.62 x 0.32-0.49 mm. Frontal wall smooth. Vittae narrow, occurring just behind the margins of the zooid; a small oval or circular boundary chamber occurs in bizooidal segments. Orifice with condyles, the proximal rim concave. Distolateral corners variable, both may be aviculiferous or one or both corners expanded widely or scarcely at all to a point, replacing the avicularia; the outer corners of both sides of a bizooidal segment are mostly pointed. Either side of the orifice is a small round opening of an infrascapular chamber. Suprascapular chambers tiny, occurring distally or absent altogether. Ovicell smooth, lacking a fenestra, with a pair of vittae dorsally.

REMARKS: Colonies of this species exhibit some geographical variation — whereas a specimen from Stn B495 in Milford Sound had zooids with relatively small distolateral points and avicularia, both of these structures were more prominent in a colony from off Oteranga Bay in Cook Strait where current flow is known to be strong.

  This species is readily distinguished from both *C. trapezoidea* and *C. cornuta* by the minimal development of suprascapular chambers in autozooids and by the non-fenestrate ovicell.

  Wass & Banta (1981, fig. 19) illustrated an unusual trizooidal fertile segment of *C. taurina*.