

*Orthoscuticella ventricosa* (Busk) (Plate 6, C-F)

*Catenicella ventricosa* Busk, 1852b, 357; Busk 1852a: 7 (*partim*); MacGillivray 1879a: 18 (*partim*); Jelly 1889: 39 (*partim*).

*Catenicella ventricosa* var. *maculata* Busk, 1852a: Pl. 3, figs 4, 5.

[?] *Scuticella ventricosa*: Livingstone 1929: 97, Stach 1934a: 16.

*Scuticella ventricosa*: Canu & Bassler 1929: 447 (*partim*); Powell 1967: 239; Wass & Yoo 1975: 810.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: NMNZ specimen Pz. 415, from Bligh Sound, Fiordland, coll. W.H. Dawbin, 10 May 1950, 46 m depth.

DISTRIBUTION: Three Kings Islands, Fiordland; 46-549 m. Also Victoria, Bass Strait; Pleistocene of Tasmania.

DESCRIPTION: Colony erect, branching, comprising jointed segments of 1-2 zooids. Single zooids 0.70-0.81 x 0.40-0.53 mm, shield-shaped, with generally subequal acute distolateral corners. Frontal wall with a V-shaped field of mostly seven windows, occasionally 5 or 6 in both uni- and bizooidal segments. Orifice high arched with a gently concave proximal rim; a distinct ascopore present. Proximolateral and lateral pore-chambers facing lateralfrontally; a narrow pore-chamber present in the groove between the zooids of a bizooidal segment. Dorsal surface of zooid smooth. Ovicelled zooidal complex large, 1.26-1.36 x 0.81-0.88 mm; orifice wider than long, with a distinct sinus; seven windows on the frontal wall, with an elongate-oval pore-chamber on either side; ectooecium with seven fenestrae, a proximofrontal pair, a distofrontal pair with a smaller slit-like fenestra between and a large proximolateral pair; a pair of cat's-ear-like prominences with pore-chambers above and below.

REMARKS: Wass and Banta (1981) referred to *Orthoscuticella ventricosa* as a species complex, since there are several similar forms with seven frontal windows. I am aware of four, three of which were illustrated by Busk (1852a) who, unfortunately, depicted the ovicell of only one of them. Levinsen (1909) illustrated the ovicell of two others but, ironically, the ovicell of *O. ventricosa sensu stricto* has not previously been described. The four species are as follows:

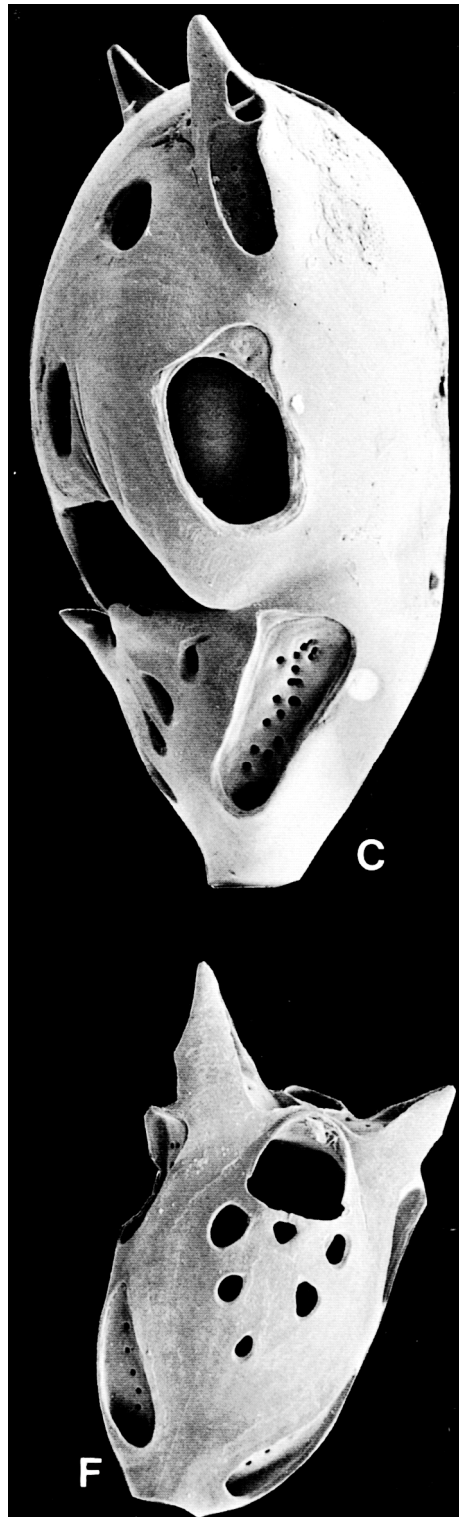
First, autozooids of *O. ventricosa* s.s. were figured by Busk (1852b, fig. 1; 1852a, pl. 3, figs 4, 5, as var. *maculata*) clearly showing a suboral ascopore.

Second, Busk (1852a, pl. 2, figs 1, 2) illustrated autozooids of another form, labelled '*C. ventricosa*', without an ascopore. Unfortunately, Levinsen (1909) referred to this as *Scuticella maculata*, not realising that Busk's 'variety' was *O. ventricosa* s.s. Levinsen (1909, pl. 11, figs 7a-c) illustrated the ovicell of this form. Wass and Banta (1981: 384, figs 91-93) refer to it as "*O. maculata sensu Levinsen*" and illustrate the ovicell with excellent SEM photos.

Third, Busk (1852a, pl. 3, figs 1-3) illustrated autozooids and ovicell of a form with a distinct orificial sinus. Although mostly with seven frontal windows, doublet zooids may have only five. The ovicell differs from the two previous forms, and one other illustrated by Levinsen (1909: 227, pl. 11, figs 5a, b; pl. 20, figs 5a, 6a, b).

This fourth species, interpreted by Levinsen to be *O. ventricosa* s.s. was not seen by Busk. It is fairly common in New Zealand waters.

Three species then, require to be named. Since one of them occurs in New Zealand a new name is introduced here for it.



*Orthoscuticella ventricosa* (Busk, 1852). Gordon, 1989, p.19, pl.6C-F.

