

Predanophora ensenada new species
Plate 63D-F

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365764, **506-87**.

Description Colony encrusting, multilaminar. Autozooids small (0.3–0.45 x 0.2–0.28 mm), oval to hexagonal, distinct in early ontogeny, becoming less so later, separated by shallow grooves. Frontal shield convex, smooth, slightly nodular, with up to six small pores around the margin. Primary orifice suborbicular, wider than long (ca 0.09 x 0.08 mm), anter large, smooth-rimmed, rounded, separated from the wide, shallow poster by robust, rounded triangular, lateral condyles. Flared peristome bears a small, oval, suboral avicularium in most autozooids, laterally or frontolaterally directed, rostrum denticulate distally, mandible almost semicircular, crossbar complete. Other adventitious avicularia rarely produced, either on frontal shield or associated with an ovicell, similar in size and shape to suboral avicularium or larger, slightly spatulate, with a denticulate distal rim, randomly orientated. Ovicell globular, as wide as long, paired, rounded triangular foramina laterally, evidence of a Y-shaped suture frontally, not closed by maternal operculum, opening into peristome above primary orifice. Peristome not entire over the proximal rim of ovicell.

Etymology From *ensenada*, Sp. cove, inlet. Named for the type locality, Linggatu Cove, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands.

Remarks *Predanophora ensenada* is characterised by its smooth and slightly nodular frontal shield, its flared peristome with associated suboral avicularium and by the rounded triangular foramina through the ectooecium.

The development of the peristome and secondary frontal calcification seems to be slightly different in *Predanophora ensenada* than that in *P. longiuscula* (described above). The structure of the peristome and secondary frontal shield calcification in *P. ensenada* appears more reliant on the surrounding autozooids than seen in *P. longiuscula*. This is also true for the development of the peristome over the proximal rim of the ovicell. The obvious Y-shaped suturing over the frontal area of the ovicell may lead to some inference as to its development.

The presence of additional avicularia in *Predanophora ensenada* again sets it apart from *P. longiuscula* but it appears that these have a similar origin to the suboral avicularia, in that some, especially the larger, more spatulate avicularia, produce a very small peristome-like rim around the proximal portion of the rostrum.

Distribution Only a single, small, fertile colony of *Predanophora ensenada* was found in the Solomon Islands at Linggatu Cove entrance, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands.



