

***Cigclisula fruticosa* sp.nov.**
(Figs 11F, 12A,B)

MATERIAL EXAMINED

HOLOTYPE: QMG304950, Stn. 27.

PARATYPE: QMG304979, Stn. 27.

DESCRIPTION

Colony erect, branching, with broad, lobed, regularly dividing branches up to 8mm wide; developing a compact, rigid, three-dimensional structure, 70 x 50mm, 45mm high. Autozooids hexagonal to irregularly polygonal, large, thickly calcified, strongly convex, separated by distinct sutures; 0.7-0.9 x 0.4-0.5mm. Frontal shield finely granular, with large, widely spaced marginal pores, and a few large, irregularly distributed frontal pores; calcification thickens through ontogeny, developing irregular ridges and knobs between the pores. Primary orifice longer than wide, proximal border almost straight, with a short, U-shaped median sinus occupying about one quarter its total width; large, blunt condyles conspicuous in proximo-lateral corners; no oral spines. A low thickened peristome developing in early ontogeny, obscuring but not completely hiding the orifice, its rim variously produced into low, blunt processes. Adventitious avicularia dimorphic: characteristically small, oval, 0.05mm long, with finely toothed rostrum, situated lateral to sinus, acute to frontal plane and laterally directed; rarely larger, 0.2mm long, with elongate oval rostrum. Large vicarious avicularia occur sporadically, the cystid almost as large as an autozoid, bearing a broadly spatulate rostrum, up to 0.4mm long. Additional small adventitious avicularia may be present around the peristomial rim of the autozoid, or elsewhere on the frontal shield. Ovicell longer than wide, convex, conspicuous, bordered by large marginal pores and with a medio-frontal group of about six large, cribrate pores.

Measurements (means and standard deviations of 20 values, mm): autozoid length 0.78 ± 0.06 ; width 0.42 ± 0.04 ; orifice length 0.18 ± 0.006 ; width 0.15 ± 0.005 .

REMARKS

This species is most similar to *C. occlusa* (Busk), which has been accorded a wide, and perhaps spurious, geographical distribution from the Torres Straits to the Philippines, and west to the Red Sea. *C. fruticosa* is distinguished immediately from *C. occlusa* by its elongate, narrowly sinuate orifice, and massive condyles. Ryland and Hayward (1992) recorded *C. areolata* (Kirkpatrick) from Heron Island; both *C. areolata* and *C. cautium* Hastings have been reported previously from the GBR (Hastings, 1932).

ETYMOLOGY

Latin, *fruticosa*, bushy.

