

Puellina egretta Ryland & Hayward, 1992
Plate 15A-B

Cribrilaria aff. *radiata* Ristedt, 1985: 20, figs 3e-h.

Puellina egretta Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 244, figs 11d,e.

Puellina egretta: Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 58, fig. 7C,D.

Material examined SBMNH 365218-225, 501-87.

Description Colony forming large unilaminar sheets. Autozooids irregular or broadly oval, distinct, separated by deep grooves (0.35 x 0.20 mm). Gymnocyte inconspicuous. Frontal shield formed by 15-17 fused costae, with a peripheral tubercle and associated pematidium indistinct; five or six intercostal lacunae. Apertural bar thickened medially, with associated lacunae proximally, small, round, often hidden by the frontally projecting join of the first pair of costae. Orifice wider than long, with a semicircular outline, five evenly spaced spines present. Avicularia common, with well-developed cystid of broad, smooth gymnocyte; rostrum slender, elongate, almost parallel-sided, with serrated lateral edges, directed along the side of an adjoining autozooid. Ovicell of Type A (*sensu* Bishop & Househam, 1987), longer than wide, the two halves of the ectoocidium coming together to form an obvious raised midline suture resembling a keel; four spines remaining in ovicellate zooids. Ancestrula with eleven spines, the mid-proximal of which overarches the opesia and bifurcates.

Remarks *Puellina egretta* is characterised by its five oral spines and its extremely elongate avicularia.

In some of the material from the Solomon Islands the oral spines are quite intact and three or four small radial processes can be seen to arise from their bases on the side nearest the oral opening (see Pl. 15B). Similar structures are seen on the spines around the ancestrula. *Puellina egretta* produces far larger colonies than *P. vulgaris* and *P. voighti*.

Distribution *Puellina egretta* has been previously recorded from the Seychelles, the Philippines, Vanuatu and Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef. During the course of this study material has also been recorded from Sri Lanka. In the Solomon Islands this species was found only from Anuha Reefs, Florida Islands.

