

PUELLINA EGRETTA RYLAND & HAYWARD
(Fig. 7C,D)

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

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

Remarks

Puellina egretta is distinguishable from *P. vulgaris* Ryland & Hayward, 1992 by having only five oral spines, more costae (c. 19), and avicularia with very long rostra produced from a pronounced cystid that appears almost vicarious. *Puellina egretta* also produces far larger colonies than *P. vulgaris*.

Ryland & Hayward (1992) were unable to find ovicells in the material of *P. egretta* they described from Heron Island, however, several ovicellate colonies have been found in the material from Vanuatu. The ovicell of *P. egretta* is Type A *sensu* Bishop & Househam (1987) and longer than that seen in *P. vulgaris*; the two halves of the ectooecium clearly come together to form a raised midline suture which resembles a keel.

Distribution

Puellina egretta was the less common of the two species found only at Port Vila Harbour, Efate encrusting various sizes of coral debris.

This species has been previously recorded from the Seychelles, the Philippines and Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef.

