

*Puellina vulgaris* Ryland & Hayward, 1992. Tilbrook, 2006, p.97, pl.15E-F, 16A.

**Puellina vulgaris** Ryland & Hayward, 1992  
Plate 15E-F; 16A

*Puellina vulgaris* Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 244, figs 12b,c.

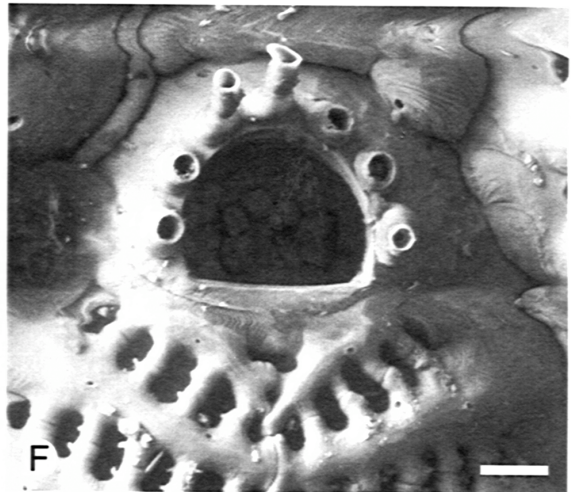
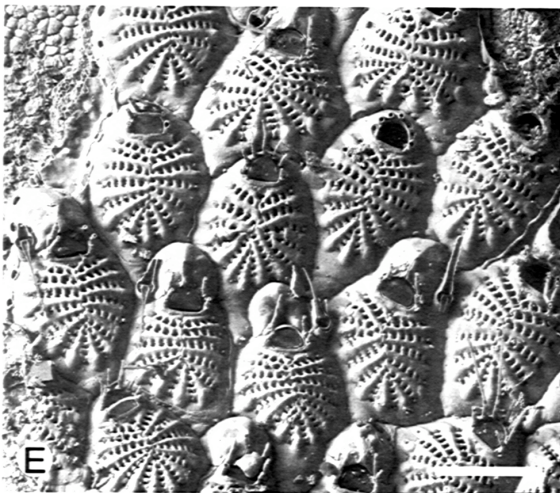
*Puellina vulgaris* : Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 58, fig. 7E,F.

**Material examined** SBMNH 365227, **401-84**; SBMNH 365228-231, **501-87**; SBMNH 365232, **506-87**.

**Description** Colony forming small unilaminar patches. Autozooids oval, distinct, separated by deep grooves (0.30 x 0.20 mm). Gymnocyst apparent around periphery of autozooid, but minimal. Frontal shield formed by 14-16 fused costae, with no peripheral tubercle but a single, small, indistinct pelmatidium. Apertural bar thickened medially, with an associated lacuna proximally, small, round. Orifice longer than wide, with deep semicircular outline, seven closely spaced spines present. Avicularia common, single or paired, with small cystid; rostrum slender, parallel-sided, with serrated lateral edges, directed distally. Ovicell apparently Type A (*sensu* Bishop & Househam, 1987), as wide as long, the two halves of ectooecium coming together to form an obvious raised midline suture resembling a keel; four spines remaining in ovicellate zooids. Ancestrula with 14 spines, mid-proximal of which overarches opesia and bifurcates.

**Remarks** *Puellina vulgaris* is characterised by its seven oral spines, 15–16 costae, and small avicularia. However, larger dimorphic avicularia are often produced, which look similar to those of *P. egretta* but lack the characteristic pronounced cystid of that species. Ryland & Hayward (1992) remarked that avicularia were infrequent in this species. This has been found to be true in some colonies but wholly untrue in others. Colonies of *P. vulgaris* are much smaller than those of *P. egretta*.

**Distribution** *Puellina vulgaris* was originally described from Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef, but has subsequently been found in Vanuatu. It was the commonest of the three species of *Puellina* in the Solomon Islands, being found encrusting coral debris from Honiara, Guadalcanal, Anuha Island, Florida Islands and Mbanika Island, Russell Islands. This is only the third record of this species.



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