

Puellina vulgaris Ryland & Hayward, 1992. Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.58, fig.7E,F.

PUELLINA VULGARIS RYLAND & HAYWARD
(Fig. 7E,F)

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

Remarks

Puellina vulgaris was twice as common in the Vanuatu samples as *P. egretta*. It is distinguished by seven oral spines, fewer costae (15–16), and generally smaller 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. Colonies of *P. vulgaris* are much smaller than those of *P. egretta*. The ovicells of *P. vulgaris* are Type C *sensu* Bishop & Househam (1987).

Distribution

Puellina vulgaris was described from Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef and this is only the second record of what appears to be quite a common species. It was found encrusting coral debris in Port Vila Harbour, Efate.

