

Synnotum aegyptiacum (Audouin, 1826). Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.52, fig.6A,C.

SYNNOTUM AEGYPTIACUM (AUDOUIN)

(Fig. 6A,C)

Loricaria aegyptiaca Audouin, 1826: 243; Savigny, [1817]: pl. 13, figs 4¹–4⁵.

Gemellaria (?) *avicularis* Pieper, 1881: 43, 47, pl. 2, figs 5–7.

Synnotum aegyptiacum: Harmer, 1926: 398, pl. 27, figs 3, 4 (cum syn.); Winston, 1982: 127, fig. 53 (cum syn.); Gordon, 1984: 43, pl. 10, figs E,F.

Remarks

The type specimen of Pieper's (1881) *Gemellaria avicularis*, from the Adriatic Sea, is more heavily calcified than the specimens from Erakor Island, Vanuatu. Others (Harmer, 1926; Gordon, 1984) have also commented on less heavily calcified specimens of *S. aegyptiacum*. Older, basal ends of erect stems develop thicker calcification and opesia closure plates, apparently strengthening the colony. Thicker calcification may explain the survival of autozooids in the fossil record; Lagaaij (1968) reported its occurrence in the Tertiary (Miocene to Pliocene) of Indonesia and the Caribbean. It also has a circumglobal Recent distribution (Lagaaij, 1968).

