

**Exechonella albilitus** new species  
Plate 20E-F

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365274, 406-84.

Other material examined SBMNH 365275-276, 501-87; SBMNH 365277, 506-87.

**Description** Autozooids very large (ca 1.20 x 0.80 mm), oval, separated by deep grooves. Frontal shield deeply convex, perforated by approx. 20-30 almost regularly-spaced small foramina, surrounded by a tall conical rim of calcification, marginal pores, conspicuous small, numerous. Orifice subcircular, wider than long, condyles inconspicuous, obscured by tall, imperforate, tubular peristome, up to 0.4 mm long when undamaged, producing a slightly flared smooth rim. No large lateral foramen observed.

**Etymology** From *albus*, L. white; *litus*, L. shore. Named for the type locality, White's Beach, formally known as Ilailon, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands.

**Remarks** *Exechonella albilitus* is characterised by its frontal foramina, set in raised conical processes of calcification, and the tall, tubular peristome, with its flared rim.

*Exechonella albilitus* differs from the other species of *Exechonella* described here as it has its foramina set within tall, hollow conical processes across the frontal shield. All the other species either have the foramina set in thick rims of calcification more or less flush with the frontal surface, or set on the proximal side of tall, solid spire-like processes. This condition does not appear to be unique, however as a specimen from Pemba Island, near Zanzibar (NHM 1972.6.3.1), also has approx. 20 foramina set in conical processes, but this species (perhaps another undescribed species) has a peristome that is tall and flared, mostly developed laterally and distally, with two elongate lateral projections on its internal surface. It also produces a short median process over the proximal border of the orifice, above the operculum. Two or three large raised foramen can be seen laterally or proximally. This species bears attributes common to both *E. albilitus* and *E. loslosensis*.

*Exechonella albilitus* is similar in appearance to material attributed to *E. erinacea* (Canu & Bassler, 1929), however, this species is not well-known due to the confusion of material attributed to it (Cook & Bock, 2004). The type material of *E. erinacea* could not be examined.

*Exechonella albilitus* appears to belong to the Group 3 of *Exechonella* species *sensu* Cook & Bock (2004).

**Distribution** *Exechonella albilitus* is known from only two specimens of encrusted coral debris found in the Solomon Islands at Linggatu Cove and Ilailon, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands and Anuha Reefs, Anuha Island, Florida Islands. At Anuha Reefs this species was associated with *Antropora granulifera* and at Ilailon with *Hippopodina iririkienensis* and *E. anuhaensis*.

