

*Plesiothoa bucarina* Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.62, fig.9E.

*PLESIOTHOA BUCARINA* SP. NOV.

(Fig. 9E)

*Material*

Holotype: 1998.8.4.68, Erakor Island, Efate, Vanuatu, 11.11.1992.

*Description*

Colony comprising intergrown, branching chains of zooids. Autozooids and female zooids present. Male zooids and zoeciules not observed. Autozooids elongate, slender, broadest distally, tapered proximally, strongly convex (Holotype,  $0.8-0.9 \times 0.3-0.4$  mm). Frontal shield thickly calcified, smooth, developing 3-5 umbones along midline; uncalcified windows present along the margins. Primary orifice orbicular, slightly longer than wide with a deep teardrop-shaped sinus; slight constriction in the anter distal to the condyles, which appear bifid through the translucent operculum. Generally four lateral pore chambers present, a distal pair appearing as raised, laterally compressed tubes. Female zooids similar in size to autozooids; ovicell not observed, but it appears to be budded from the raised distal pore chambers; female primary orifice differing from the autozooidal orifice, wider than long, semi-elliptical with a U-shaped sinus, proximal border convex on either side of sinus; condyles appear flat not bifid.

*Etymology*

From *bu-* L.—prefix, large. *carina* L.—keeled. Named for its large prominent umbones.

*Remarks*

*Plesiothoa bucarina*, the largest-known *Plesiothoa*, is based on a single, small, fragmented colony that was found in coral debris from Erakor Island reef flat. The marginal windows are uncalcified and connect with the lateral pore-chambers as illustrated by Gordon & Hastings (1979) in *P. trigemma*.

