CALYPTOTHECA RUPICOLA HAYWARD & RYLAND

Calyptotheca rupicola Hayward & Ryland, 1995a: 555, figs 9F, 10A,B.

Description

Colony an encrusting, unilaminar sheet. Autozooids rectangular to irregularly polygonal, flat, separated by thick raised sutures; 0.6–0.7 × 0.3–0.4 mm. Primary orifice broader than long; proximal border shallowly concave between short, rounded condyles. Frontal shield densely perforated, pores interspersed with smooth, rounded tubercles, thickening with ontogeny. A curved band of especially large tubercles extends around the proximal and lateral borders of the orifice, constituting a distinct peristomial rim. Avicularia rare, proximolateral to orifice, on slightly inflated cystid; rostrum long and bluntly triangular, medially directed. Ovicell recumbent on distally succeeding autozooid, not crossed by sutures; slightly broader than long, distinctly flattened; perforation and tuberculation uniform with frontal shield.

Distribution

Three species of *Calyptotheca* were found at Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef; *Calyptotheca rupicola* Hayward & Ryland, 1995, *C. tenuata* Harmer, 1957, and *C. thornelyae* Dumont, 1981 (Ryland & Hayward, 1992; Hayward & Ryland, 1995a) but only *C. rupicola* has so far been found in Vanuatu. Four small colonies were found in the samples from Erakor and Iririki Islands on coral rubble; this is only the second record of *C. rupicola*.