

DREPANOPHORA GUTTA SP. NOV.

(Fig. 10E,F)

Material

Holotype: NHM 1998.8.4.2, Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu, October 1990.

Description

Colony encrusting, unilaminar. Autozooids oval, convex, distinct, separated by shallow grooves. Primary orifice longer than wide, wider distally, the proximal border with a deep, narrow, anvil-shaped lyrula. Peristome very long, tubular, with a notch distally that accommodates 2 distal oral spines; a single frontally facing avicularium present on the rim of the peristome, rostrum acute triangular. Frontal shield very slightly nodular, imperforate other than for 5 or 6 large marginal pores, generally proximal. Ovicell prominent, globular, recumbent on distal autozoooid, a small teardrop-shaped foramen, perpendicular to frontal plane, either side of midline, distally situated. Oral spines not seen in brooding zooids.

Measurements

Holotype, means and standard deviations, mm ($n = 30$).

Autozooidal length 0.33 ± 0.04 ; width 0.22 ± 0.03 .

Etymology

From *guttum*, L.—a narrow-necked flask; alluding to the appearance of the peristome.

Remarks

Drepanophora gutta is included in the genus *Drepanophora* because it has a large peristome with an associated avicularium, an entire frontal shield with marginal pores, a globular ovicell with a pair of foramina, and an official lyrula. However, it differs from all other species assigned to this genus in the fact that it possesses two oral spines, the taxonomic significance of which is far outweighed by the features just mentioned. *Drepanophora gutta* appears close to *Rhamphostomella* von Lorenz, 1886, as described by Gordon (1984).

Distribution

Drepanophora gutta was represented by a single colony found encrusting a small piece of coral debris from Port Vila Harbour, Efate.

