

Microporella micropora Tilbrook, 2006, p.209, pl.45C-D.

Microporella micropora new species
Plate 45C-D

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365636, 412-84.

Description Colony encrusting. Autozooids large (0.70–0.90 x 0.55–0.70 mm), roughly hexagonal, extremely convex, the frontal shield smoothly nodular. Primary orifice relatively small, smooth, wider than long (ca 0.13 x 0.10 mm), small condyles in proximolateral corners. Four spines. Ascopore embedded in frontal shield, one orifice length proximal of orifice itself, its median process reduced, the opening reniform. Avicularia single or paired, relatively small, near lateral walls, either slightly proximolateral, or slightly distolateral to ascopore, laterally directed, the rostrum abruptly tapered, crossbar complete, mandible not observed. Ovicell not observed.

Etymology From *mikros*, Gr. small; *poros*, Gr. hole. Named for the size of the frontal shield pores.

Remarks *Microporella micropora* is characterised by the large size of its autozooids with a proportionately small primary orifice and by the number of oral spines. The size and positioning of the avicularia are also diagnostic, as they are relatively small and positioned almost on the lateral walls.

Microporella micropora is easily distinguished from the other species of *Microporella* found in the Solomon Islands due to the large size of its zooids; almost double the size of any of the other species found. *M. micropora* is similar to *M. ventricosa* Canu & Bassler, 1929 but this latter species bears five oral spines, which are proportionately larger than those of *M. micropora*, and the proximal rim of the orifice is denticulate.

Distribution A single colony of *Microporella micropora* was dredged from 100m off Yandina, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands.

