

*Lifuella multidentata* (Thornely, 1905). Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.95, fig.20D.

*LIFUELLA MULTIDENTATA* (THORNELY)  
(Fig. 20D)

*Lepralia multidentata* Thornely, 1905: 120, pl. (un-numbered), fig. 9.

*Lepralia purpurea* Thornely, 1905: 120, pl. (un-numbered), fig. 13.

*Lepralia multidentata*: Hastings, 1966: 64.

*Hippoporella multidentata*: Harmer, 1957: 1099, pl. 73, figs 9–12; Dumont, 1981: 636.

Not *Lepraliella multidentata*: Gordon, 1984: 123, pls 50E, 51A.

*Description*

Colony encrusting, sometimes calyciform. Autozooids appearing porcellanous when dried, the frontal shield imperforate, slightly tuberculate in younger autozooids, with 5–7 small areolar pores; separated by shallow grooves in early ontogeny, later less distinct owing to secondary calcification. Primary orifice bell-shaped, slightly longer than wide, with a broadly arcuate smooth-rimmed anter, separated from the shallow poster by small, proximally directed condyles. Generally 4–5 articulated oral spines present in both infertile and fertile autozooids. Suboral umbo present, often becoming very tall and pointed in later ontogeny and even bifurcating. Adventitious avicularia present; small, triangular, single or paired, lateral-oral and frequently distal-oral; with complete crossbar. Dried material ranges from translucent white to pinkish purple.

*Remarks*

Autozooids of *Lifuella multidentata* change greatly in appearance through ontogeny, so much so that were the growing edges not present in some specimens one might easily assign younger and older colonies to different species. The young colonies found at Vanuatu were small and encrusting, the autozooids distinct and devoid of avicularia. However, lectotype and paralectotype material (designated by Hastings, 1966) has autozooids that are far less individually distinct, with an abundance of avicularia and very tall umbones which in some cases (NHM 1975.7.28.24) are bifurcate. The lectotype specimen (NHM 1906.12.3.4, L.R. Thornely Coll.) is a large colony with a growing edge, which allows comparison with the older parts of the colony.

The specimen illustrated by Gordon (1984) had, by his own description, a denticulate anter and is therefore not a species of *Lifuella*, rather a species of *Fodinella* gen. nov.

*Distribution*

Two young colonies of this species were found from Iririki Island. This record extends the range of the species from the Red Sea and Sri Lanka through the Philippines to the south west Pacific Ocean.

