

Rhynchozoon adamanteus new species
Plate 67D-F

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365798, **501-87**.
Paratypes: SBMNH 365799-801; SBMNH 365802-811, **501-87**.

Other material examined SBMNH 365812-814, **401-84**; SBMNH 365815, **408-84**; SBMNH 365816, **411-84**.

Description Colony multilaminar. Autozooids irregularly polygonal (0.40–0.50 x 0.30–0.40 mm), distinct, separated by shallow grooves, lateral walls apparent, loosely joined with sporadic holes between them. Frontal shield rather flattened, developing rounded tubercles in ontogeny, marginal pores relatively small and irregularly spaced. Primary orifice wider than long (ca 0.10 x 0.08 mm), distal denticulations stout, sinus short, bowl-shaped, occupying about quarter its width, condyles inconspicuous, rounded. No oral spines. Suboral avicularium in most autozooids, incorporated into peristome, rostrum triangular, hooked distally, its proximal portion continuous with short, uncinat process projecting into peristome lumen, directed frontolaterally. Peristome completely encircling orifice, generally obscuring it, a short mucro developed on top of avicularium contributing to it. With ontogenetic thickening primary orifice becomes deeply immersed, an asymmetrical pseudosinus produced proximally. Frontal avicularia common, generally one, but often two of unequal size, per autozoid, located medially, directed laterally or distolaterally, rostrum elongate triangular, pointed distally, acute to frontal shield, curving basally, rostral palate minimal, opesia large, elongate triangular, mandible acute, triangular, crossbar complete. Ovicell deeply immersed in secondary calcification, not readily visible in frontal view.

Etymology From *adamanteus*, L. like a diamond or lozenge. Named for the shape of the frontal avicularium.

Remarks *Rhynchozoon adamanteus* is characterised by its primary orifice, wider than long, a shallow bowl-shaped sinus, but also by its extremely large triangular frontal avicularia.

Distribution *Rhynchozoon adamanteus* is known only from the Solomon Islands. It was found from Anuha Reefs, Anuha Island, Florida Islands; Mbokona Bay, Honiara, Guadalcanal, Taora Passage between Choiseul and Vealaviru; and Raun Island, Yandina, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands.



