

*Triphyllozoon tubulatum* (Busk, 1884). Hayward, 2000, p. 118, Fig.7.

*Triphyllozoon tubulatum* (Busk)

(Fig. 7)

*Retepora tubulata* Busk, 1884: 121 (part)

*Retepora tubulata*: Hastings, 1932: 442, text figs 18A–F.

*Triphyllozoon tubulatum*: Harmer, 1934: 600, pl. 35, fig. 30, pl. 39, figs 10–15.

**Material**

LECTOTYPE: BMNH 1887.12.9.502, Challenger Station 186, off Cape York, Queensland.  
Other material: BMNH 1882.2.23.386–95, 546–57, Thursday Island, Torres Strait, 3–5 fathoms, HMS *Alert*; 1882.2.23.421–2, 485–9, Prince of Wales Channel, Torres Strait, 9 fathoms, HMS *Alert*; 1882.2.23.512–21, Port Darwin, 8–12 fathoms, HMS *Alert*; 1882.2.23.522–4, Torres Strait, 10 fathoms, HMS *Alert*; 1882.2.23.542–51, West Island, Torres Strait, 7 fathoms, HMS *Alert*; 1886.2.19.18, Western Australia; 1890.10.21.1, between Hammond Island and Wednesday Spit, Torres Strait, 5 fathoms; 1892.1.28.113, Holothuria Bank, 15 fathoms; 1963.9.4.10, north-west coast of Australia; unreg., Friday Island, Torres Strait; unreg., Prince of Wales Channel, Torres Strait, 5–7 fathoms.

**Description**

The colony form is especially distinctive in this species. Arising from a limited area of encrusting base the growing edge of the young colony becomes deeply infolded, and fuses to form two to four, occasionally more, closed tubes; the rims of the tubes then flare, unfold and fuse once more. The colony thus develops as a domed, three-dimensional structure of continually branching and anastomosing tubular units with the frontal surfaces of the colony on the inner surfaces of the tubes. The largest specimen examined (1882.2.23.512–21) was a roughly ovoid colony, 3 × 4 × 5 cm, with tubular components 5–6 mm diameter. Reticulation rather fine: fenestrulae 0.5–0.6 × 1.0–1.5 mm; trabeculae about twice width of fenestrulae, consisting of two to five alternating, longitudinal autozooid series. Autozooids at growing edge elongate, 0.5–0.6 × c. 0.2 mm, separated by well-marked sutures. Frontal shield convex, initially smooth, but

developing an irregularly nodular surface; in late ontogeny the frontal shield is especially thick and convex but autozooid boundaries remain distinct. Primary orifice longer than wide, disto-lateral borders finely denticulate; proximal edge straight, with a shallow notch in one corner; condyles are small and rather indistinct. Up to four oral spines may be present, most usually only the lateral pair are developed and present in ovicelled autozooids. Peristome forming a pair of symmetrical lateral flaps, with a deep medio-proximal notch between; a small oval avicularium present sporadically on one side of the notch, which narrows with ontogenetic frontal shield thickening but does not close over. Similar avicularia, with oval rostrum 0.08 mm long, present on frontal shield of many autozooids. Enlarged adventitious avicularia present on the distal edge of many fenestrulae, with oval rostrum, rounded and raised distally, about 0.15 mm long; crossbar complete, without columella. Larger avicularia present within many fenestrulae, along the edges or in the proximal axil; rostrum c. 0.25 mm long, the distal portion broadly spatulate, its rim characteristically with two or three prominent, pointed teeth; the mandible is deeply bifid. Ovicell slightly longer than wide, aperture with a short, lobed labellum just extending into the peristome; sutures rather wide, lobed distally, with prominent cross-connections; longitudinal suture about twice as long as the lateral sutures, which diverge at c. 120–160%. Abfrontal surfaces of colony finely granular, with prominent sutures; oval avicularia, identical to these on frontal surfaces, frequent.

**Remarks**

The symmetrical, deeply notched peristome, which does not close, and the large suprafenestral avicularia are especially characteristic of this species. *Triphyllozoon tubulatum* has been collected from unspecified localities on the coast of Western Australia, but more frequently from Torres Strait.

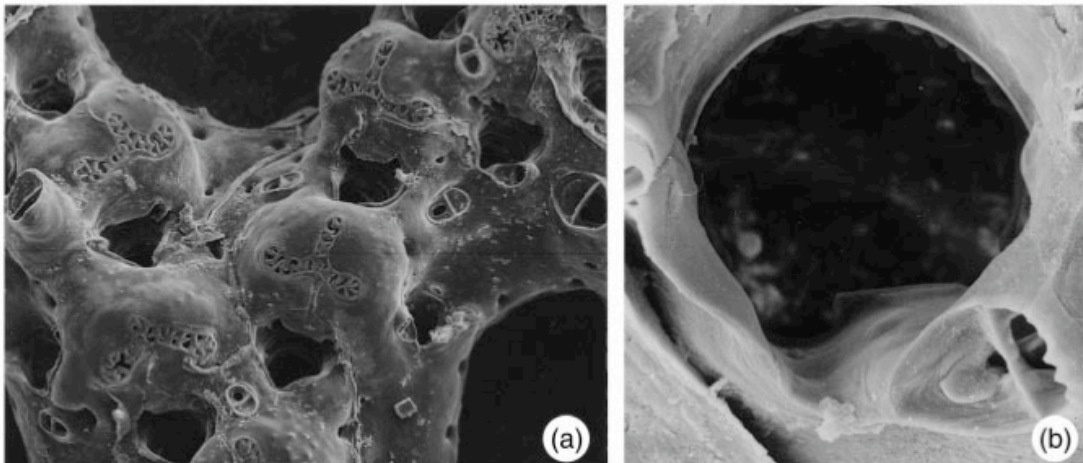


Fig. 7. *Triphyllozoon tubulatum*, BMNH 1882.2.23.546–57: (a) ovicelled autozooids and avicularia, × 80; (b) primary orifice, × 400.