

Escharoides longirostris Dumont, 1981. Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.70.

ESCHAROIDES LONGIROSTRIS DUMONT

Escharoides longirostris Dumont, 1981: 160, fig. 1A.

Escharoides longirostris: Hayward, 1988: 293; Hayward & Ryland, 1995a: 548, fig. 8A.

Distribution

This species was originally described from the Sudanese Red Sea but has subsequently been recorded from Mauritius and the Great Barrier Reef. Colonies are very small, rarely exceeding 2–3 mm² and generally comprising less than a dozen autozooids (Ryland & Hayward, 1992), and seem restricted to cryptic habitats in coral rubble, which might explain the paucity of records. The presence of several colonies in coral rubble from Poanangisu greatly increases its range eastwards. It may yet be found to occur widely throughout the Indo–West Pacific.