

*Parasmittina galerita* Ryland & Hayward, 1992. Tilbrook, 2006, p.152, pl.29B, 30D,E.

**Parasmittina galerita** Ryland & Hayward, 1992  
Plates 29B; 30D-E

*Parasmittina galerita* Ryland & Hayward 1992: 270, figs 21 d-f.

*Parasmittina galerita*: Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 75, Fig. 14 A,B.

*Parasmittina parsevalioidea* Liu, Yin & Ma, 2001: 625, pl. 56, figs 1-4.

**Material examined** SBMNH 365390-391 **401-84**; SBMNH 365392, **403-84**; SBMNH 365393, **406-87**; SBMNH 365394-397, **407-84**; SBMNH 365398, **408-84**; SBMNH 365399, **409-84**; SBMNH 365400-401, **410-84**; SBMNH 365402-404, **411-84**; SBMNH 365405-411, **501-87**; SBMNH 365412, **514-87**; SBMNH 365413-416, **515-87**; NHM 1998.8.4.171, Iririki Island, Vanuatu.

**Description** Colony multilaminar. Autozooids rectangular to irregularly polygonal, slightly convex (ca 0.50 x 0.40 mm). Frontal shield coarsely nodular, marginal pores large. Primary orifice rounded, as long as wide (0.10 x 0.09 mm), distal border smooth, lyrula broad, occupying approximately half of proximal border, shallow, i.e. less than a quarter as deep as wide, anvil-shaped, with pointed corners, condyles stout, rounded, denticulate, up to six denticles visible. One or two oral spines present in early ontogeny only. Peristome widely open proximally, most developed laterally as paired lateral lappets. Avicularia polymorphic, numerous: most often lateral-oral, single or paired, rostrum acutely triangular, finely denticulate, directed medially ascending the side of peristomial lappet; other similar-sized avicularia with oval, or slightly spatulate rostrum, developed along zooidal margins, typically proximolateral to peristome and proximally directed; enlarged avicularia frequent, originating lateral to orifice, extending length of autozooid, rostrum broadly and asymmetrically spatulate, with upturned, irregularly toothed distal rim, crossbar slender, palatal foramen large, proximally directed; sporadically, small triangular avicularia appear, as described above, especially near ovicells, randomly directed. Ovicell globular, prominent, densely perforated by many small frontal pores, imperforate, thin oocelial cover developed above the ovicell aperture.

**Remarks** *Parasmittina galerita* is characterised by its rounded orifice, its broad, yet shallow lyrula, its rounded denticulate condyles and its smooth distal oral rim. The combination of acute triangular avicularia associated with the lateral-oral lappets, the oval marginal avicularia and the large asymmetrical spatulate avicularia are also characteristic.

Tilbrook *et al.* (2001) suggested the synonymy of *Parasmittina galerita* with a very similar species, *P. leviavicularia* Soule & Soule, 1973. Examination of paratype material of the Soules' species shows that it differs in a number of characters, namely its narrower and deeper lyrula, denticulate but thinner condyles, more acute lateral-oral triangular avicularia, spatulate marginal avicularia, no enlarged asymmetrical avicularia, and an ovicell with far fewer, smaller pores.

Tilbrook *et al.* (2001) also synonymised Ryland & Hayward's (1992) Heron Island occurrence of *Parasmittina latiavicularia* (Kirkpatrick, 1888), originally described from Mauritius, with *P. galerita*. This was a mistake. While a denticulate distal-oral border can be seen clearly in Ryland & Hayward's (1992) Plate 22a, neither *P. galerita*, *P. latiavicularia* or *P. leviavicularia* possess such a character, type material having been examined. Ryland & Hayward's (1992) species should thus be examined further to properly determine its specific assignation, perhaps benefiting from comparison against *P. parsevaliformis* Soule & Soule, 1973.

The species described by Liu *et al.* (2001) as *Parasmittina parsevalioidea* is the same as Ryland & Hayward's (1992) species; this is therefore a junior synonym of *P. galerita*.

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**Distribution** Originally described from Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef by Ryland & Hayward (1992) and noted from Makassar Strait, *Parasmittina galerita* has subsequently been recorded from Iririki Island, Vanuatu by Tilbrook *et al.* (2001) and the South China Sea by Liu *et al.* (2001). In the Solomon Islands *P. galerita* was the most widespread of the *Parasmittina* species, found from Honiara, Guadalcanal, around Mbanika Island, Russell Islands, various localities around Choiseul, and a number of localities around Nggela Sule, Florida Islands.

