

Parasmittina rimula new species
Plates 29G; 33A-C

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365463, **506-87**.
Paratypes: SBMNH 365464-465, **506-87**.

Other material examined SBMNH 365466, **404-84**; SBMNH 365467-469, **406-84**.

Description Colony multilaminar. Autozooids rectangular, hexagonal to irregularly polygonal, convex (ca 0.60 x 0.40 mm). Frontal shield almost smooth, slightly granular, marginal pores very large, lateral walls raised above frontal, large openings between adjacent lateral walls, occurring usually distally and laterally. Primary orifice round, as long as wide (0.12 x 0.12 mm), distal border smooth, lyrula broad, occupying approximately half proximal border, relatively shallow, i.e. half as deep as wide, rhomboid, with straight distal edge, condyles quite thick, downcurved, very sharply pointed. One or two oral spines. Peristome slightly developed laterally as paired lappets. Avicularia common, dimorphic: proximolateral-oral, single or paired, proximolaterally directed, rostrum acute to frontal shield, acute, triangular, with arched, lateral edges; occasionally single, originating lateral-orally, proximally directed, extending whole length of autozooid, rostrum narrow, proximally, widely spatulate distally, with denticulate rounded tip, crossbar slender, palatal foramen large, rounded triangular, proximal opesia semicircular. Ovicell globular, prominent, recumbent on frontal shield of distal autozooid, wider than long, perforated by many irregularly-shaped pores, imperforate, oocial cover developed by encroaching peristome, forming a complete rim above ovicell aperture, sutures apparent, raised ridge of oocial cover along distal edge of fenestra of porous calcification.

Etymology From *rimula*, L. small clefts, fissures. Named for the commonly occurring openings between adjacent lateral zooidal walls.

Remarks *Parasmittina rimula* is characterised by its primary orifice, its broad, yet shallow lyrula and downcurved, very sharply pointed condyles. The dimorphic avicularia and the smoothness of its frontal shield are also diagnostic.

The primary orifice of *Parasmittina rimula* is similar to *P. fistulata*, *P. onychorhynca*, *P. aculeata* and *P. ovilirata*, all having relatively similar shaped lyrula and condyles. The differences between these species have already been noted above.

The raised lateral walls and more particularly the common occurrence of openings between adjacent walls in *Parasmittina rimula* is a little reminiscent of *P. marsupialis* Soule & Soule, 1973, in which the lateral walls were thought to be incompletely fused. This latter species also produced what the authors referred to as "tubulae" along the top of the lateral walls. No evidence of these structures was found in *P. rimula*.

Distribution *Parasmittina rimula* is only known from the Solomon Islands. It was found in the Russell Islands from Linggatu Cove, Yandina and Ilailon.

