

Pleurocodonellina soulesi (Scholz & Cusi, 1993). Tilbrook, 2006, p.172, pl.37A-B.

Pleurocodonellina soulesi Scholz & Cusi, 1991
Plate 37A-B

Parasmittina soulesi Scholz & Cusi, 1991: pl. 5, figs 1-4.

Material examined SBMNH 365538-545, **401-84**; SBMNH 365546, **403-84**; SBMNH 365547, **501-87**.

Description Colony a unilaminar sheet. Autozooids hexagonal or irregularly polygonal (0.55–0.65 x 0.30–0.40 mm), slightly convex, separated by distinct raised sutures and thickened marginal walls. Frontal shield thickly calcified, nodular, bordered by large marginal pores. Primary orifice wider than long (ca 0.12 x 0.10 mm), appearing semicircular, with a small heart-shaped proximal sinus and a short triangular median denticle, separated from the anter by large, triangular condyles, these minutely denticulate, pointing medially. Two or three small distal oral spines present in early ontogeny, obscured by development of distal portion of a tall, thin, bilateral peristome, flared either side of a proximo-median notch. Single or paired avicularia, lateral-oral, dimorphic: most often medium-sized, four times as long as wide, slim, parallel-sided, rounded proximally and distally, with slender crossbar, small palatal foramen and oval opesia, proximally or proximo-laterally directed, laterally angled to frontal shield; less often large, extending length of autozooid, spatulate, with a thicker crossbar and extensive palate, cupped distally, a small palatal foramen and oval opesia. Ovicell prominent, globular, wider than long, with a thin, crescentic series of large, rounded pores (ca 8) frontally.

Pleurocodonellina soulesi is characterised by the heart-shaped official sinus, the presence of a median oral denticle, and the surrounding tall, flared peristome with a deep proximal notch. The small frontal crescent of pores on the ovicell is also characteristic.

Remarks *Pleurocodonellina soulesi* is similar to *P. laciniosa* Hayward & Ryland (1995a) that also possesses a proximo-median projection in the primary orifice and comparable avicularia. However, the primary orifice of *P. soulesi* differs in having far larger articulatory condyles and a tall peristome with a proximo-medial notch. *P. laciniosa* lacks a peristome. The morphology of the ovicell in *P. soulesi* is reminiscent of *P. clavacula* (above), however, the crescent of pores in *P. soulesi* is more frontally positioned on the ovicell than those seen in *P. clavacula* where the crescent is longer and more distal.

Distribution Originally described from the Philippines, *Pleurocodonellina soulesi* was thought by the original authors to be present on the Great Barrier Reef, though this has yet to be substantiated. In the Solomon Islands this was the common most species of *Pleurocodonellina* found from Mbokona Bay, Honiara, Guadalcanal, Yandina, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands and Anuha Reefs, Florida Islands. This is only the second record of this species.

