

**Smittoidea dentio** new species  
Plate 38C-D

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365563, **503-87**.

**Description** Colony forming small, unilaminar patches. Autozooids rectangular or irregularly polygonal, flat or slightly convex, separated by distinct sutures, lateral walls distinct (0.50–0.60 x 0.25–0.35 mm). Frontal shield imperforate, nodular, surrounded by a single series of very large, conspicuous marginal pores. Primary orifice wider than long, a deep, anvil-shaped lyrula occupying just over half proximal border, distal border minutely denticulate, rounded, condyles long, gracile, minutely denticulate. Three oral spines in early ontogeny. Low peristome, most developed laterally, with a conspicuous U-shaped medioproximal notch. Single avicularium suborally on each autozoid, rostrum triangular, tapering to a rounded tip, lateral edges smooth, complete crossbar thickened, proximal opesia circular, directed proximally, associated with medioproximal notch of the peristome. Ovicell globular, as long as wide, smooth frontal surface with numerous small, round pores, an oocial cover of frontal calcification developed early in ontogeny, extending to lateral edges of peristome, leaving a large, round or D-shaped central frontal area of ovicell exposed, closed by maternal operculum. Mural septula present.

**Etymology** From *dentis*, L. tooth. Named for the minutely denticulate distal-oral border and condyles.

**Remarks** *Smittoidea dentio* is characterised by its primary orifice, particularly the minutely denticulate distal-oral border and condyles, and the triangular suboral avicularia associated with the medioproximal notch of the peristome.

*Smittoidea dentio* differs from *S. pacifica* in producing oral spines, developing shorter suboral avicularia and in having a denticulate distal-oral border and denticulate oral condyles. These latter two features have been recorded before in *S. incucula*. But *S. dentio* differs from this species in having thinner condyles, only three oral spines and developing a triangular avicularium only slightly raised from the frontal plane rather than perpendicular to it.

*S. spinigera* [*nomen nudem* – see above] develops a small, semicircular avicularium associated with the peristome, produces four or five oral spines and appears to have a smooth distal oral border.

*Smittoidea levis* (Kirkpatrick, 1890), originally described from the Torres Strait but subsequently recorded from the Philippines, is another species similar to *S. dentio*. However, *S. levis* has an extremely coarsely denticulate distal oral rim, with generally six large conspicuous “teeth” visible prior to the development of the peristome. Its lyrula is wider than that seen in *S. dentio* but its condyles have not been observed. The frontal avicularia of *S. levis* is midway between the sizes seen in *S. pacifica* and *S. dentio* but it is not associated with the medioproximal notch of the peristome.

*Smittoidea dentio* Tilbrook, 2006. Tilbrook, 2006, p.179, pl.38C-D.

Distribution Only found in the Solomon Islands, a single colony of *Smittoidea dentio* was found at Ruaniu, west of Honiara, Guadalcanal, associated with *Celleporaria erugo* and *Stylopoma velatum*.

