

Smittoidea pacifica Soule & Soule, 1973. Tilbrook 2006, p.173, pl.38A-B.

Smittoidea pacifica Soule & Soule, 1973
Plate 38A-B

Smittoidea pacifica Soule & Soule, 1973: 380, figs 1E-H.

Smittoidea pacifica: Rho & Kim, 1981: 65, pl. 5, figs 4,5; Winston, 1986: 28; Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 268, figs 24e, f; Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 78, Fig. 18E.

Smittina levis: Harmer, 1957 (part): 919, pl. 63, fig. 3.

? *Smittina reticulata*: Canu & Bassler, 1929: 337, pl. 39, figs 8-10.

Type material Paratype: NHM 2000.2.1.12, (H.2.A.13) Station 614, Onalou Beach, near Honokahua, Maui, Hawaii. 8 m. 07.08.1966.

Other material examined SBMNH 365561, **506-87**; SBMNH 365562, **401-84**; NHM 1998.8.4.176, Iririki Island, Vanuatu.

Description Colony forming small, unilaminar patches. Autozooids irregularly polygonal or hexagonal, flat or slightly convex, separated by distinct sutures and lateral walls (ca 0.50 x 0.28 mm). Frontal shield imperforate, coarsely nodular, surrounded by a single series of large, conspicuous marginal pores. Primary orifice wider than long, a deep, wide anvil-shaped lyrula occupying entire proximal border. distal border smooth, rounded, condyles short, robust, triangular, smooth. No oral spines. Peristome developed early in ontogeny, completely encircling orifice, with a conspicuous U-shaped medioproximal notch, the edges thickening with ontogeny. Single avicularium suborally on each autozoid, rostrum elongate triangular, finely tapering to a rounded tip, lateral edges finely denticulate, complete crossbar thickened, proximal opesia circular, directed proximally. Ovicell wider than long, smooth frontal surface with numerous small, round or irregularly-shaped pores, an ooeial cover of frontal calcification developed, extending to distal edge of peristome, leaving a small, oval or crescent-shaped central frontal area of ovicell exposed, closed by maternal operculum. Mural septula present.

Remarks *Smittoidea pacifica* is characterised by its primary orifice, the lyrula which occupies the entire proximal border, and the elongate, triangular suboral avicularia.

Smittoidea pacifica differs from *S. dentio* in having a wider lyrula, higher peristome, and more numerous, smaller marginal pores. *S. pacifica* also has a smooth distal oral border whereas *S. dentio* has a denticulate border. *S. incucula* Hayward & Ryland, 1995a, from the Great Barrier Reef, has a very short, triangular avicularium associated with the proximal edge of the peristome. *S. incucula* also develops a denticulate distal oral border and condyles and autozooids bear five oral spines in early ontogeny, *S. pacifica* develops none. *S. spinigera* (Liu, 1990) has a small, almost semicircular avicularium associated with the proximal edge of the peristome, produces oral spines and appears to have a smooth distal oral border.

Soule & Soule (1973) had some reservations about the inclusion of Canu & Bassler's (1929) Philippines material in their synonymy of *Smittoidea pacifica*. They noted a similarity between the Philippines material they examined and some of Harmer's "Siboga" material attributed to *S. levis*. They concluded however, that the variations between this material and their Hawaiian material might have been environmental, more a consequence of differing depths, the Hawaiian material being from shallow reef habitats, the Philippines material from far deeper.

Distribution Described from the Hawaiian and Galapagos Islands, *Smittoidea pacifica* is also known from the Caribbean and Venezuela (Winston, 1986), the Great Barrier Reef (Ryland & Hayward, 1992) and from Vanuatu (Tilbrook *et al.*, 2001). In the Solomon Islands only two colonies were found, from Mbokona Bay, Honiara, Guadalcanal and Linggatu Cove, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands.

