

Alcyonidium kermadecense Gordon 1984, p.22, fig. 3G,H.

Alcyonidium kermadecense n.sp. (Fig. 3, G,H)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: NZOI Stn K797.

DISTRIBUTION: Kermadec Islands, 55–70 m.

DESCRIPTION: Colony encrusting, ramifying. Zooids unim, generally claviform and disposed in uniserial series, but through bifurcations and trifurcations zooids become more crowded and interconnected by short processes; where they become contiguous zooids may be subquadrate in outline; 0.53–1.06 mm long and 0.35–0.60 mm wide. Kenozooids not seen. Orificial region transversely C-shaped at the summit of a short peristome. Frontal wall smooth, yellowish in alcohol.

HOLOTYPE: Four colonies, in collection of the N.Z. Oceanographic Institute, DSIR, Wellington, New Zealand, type number H-331.

TYPE-LOCALITY: NZOI Stn K797, Esperance Rock, 31°20.8'S, 178°49.2'W, 55–70 m.

REMARKS: The colonies of this species occurred on two dead lithothamnion-encrusted mollusc shells which had dried out. They were restored by soaking in an aqueous solution of trisodium phosphate.

A. kermadecense most resembles *A. albidum* Alder, 1856 which occurs, however, from France to Spitzbergen. *A. albidum* has kenozooids, taller peristomes, and a trifoliate puckering of the orifice when the peristomes are retracted. Nothing is presently known of the polypide of *A. kermadecense*.

