

*Rhynchozoon ferocula* Hayward, 1988. Tilbrook, 2006, p.297, Pl.65E-F

**Rhynchozoon ferocula** Hayward, 1988  
Plate 65E-F

*Rhynchozoon ferocula* Hayward, 1988: 332, pl. 11, figs c-e.

*Rhynchozoon ferocula*: Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 100, figs 22a, b.

*Rhynchozoon globosum*: Scholz, 1991: 320, pl. 17, figs 4, 6.

**Type material** Holotype: NHM 1987.1.18.18, Flic en Flac, 25m. (Two slides.)  
Paratype: NHM 1987.1.18.19, Flic en Flac, 25m.

**Other material examined** SBMNH 365785, **501-87**; NHM 1998.8.4.177, Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu;  
NHM 1998.8.4.186, Poanangisu, Efate, Vanuatu.

**Description** Colony becoming multilaminar, developing domed, circular sheets with a conspicuous marginal lamina. Autozooids oval to hexagonal (0.40 x 0.30 mm). Frontal shield convex, granular, relatively few, irregularly spaced, marginal pores. Primary orifice rounded, as wide as long (ca 0.10 x 0.10 mm), distal denticulations stout, proximal border with small drop-shaped sinus, occupying about quarter its width, delimited by two lateral, distally-pointing projections, condyles small, triangular. Four to six oral spines. Suboral avicularium lacking in most autozooids, incorporated into peristome, rostrum triangular, hooked distally, no uncinat process. Peristome most pronounced proximally, variably produced into a number of conical processes, proximomedial process tallest and developed first, generally not obscuring orifice. Frontal avicularia common, often more than one per autozooid, proximal to peristome, randomly directed, rostrum triangular, acute (some almost perpendicular) to frontal shield, no rostral palate, large, triangular opesia, mandible acute, triangular, crossbar complete. Ovicell rounded, broader than long, smooth ectooecium, with semi-ellipse of smooth endooecium visible frontally, immersed by coarsely granular oocelial calcification. Ancestrula with eight evenly spaced spines around opesia.

**Remarks** *Rhynchozoon ferocula* is characterised by its almost round primary orifice, with its drop-shaped proximal sinus, delimited by two lateral processes, and its inconspicuous, small, triangular condyles. Perhaps the most easily recognisable characters are the presence of, usually four, spines in early ontogeny.

**Distribution** *Rhynchozoon ferocula* was originally recorded from Mauritius; it has since been recorded from Vanuatu (Tilbrook *et al.* 2001), and the Philippines by Scholz (1991) as *R. globosum* Harmer, 1957. In the Solomon Islands a small, yet fertile colony of less than 30 zooids was found from Anuha Reefs, Florida Islands associated with *Robertsonidra porifera* and *Calloporina sigillata*. This is the fourth record of this Indo-West Pacific species.

