

*Rhynchozoon ferocula* Hayward, 1988. Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.100, fig.22A,B.

*RHYNCHOZOOON FEROCULA* HAYWARD

(Fig. 22A,B)

*Rhynchozoon ferocula* Hayward 1988: 332, pl. 13, figs a–c.

*Remarks*

Very small colonies only of this species were found in samples from Iririki Island, Port Vila Harbour and Poanangisu, but none had developed the domed form seen in the Mauritian type material. However, the distinctive primary orifice, with its border of four spines, is characteristic: the anter is circular, c. 0.1 mm diameter, with blunt, widely spaced denticulations and small, rounded condyles proximolaterally; the short, rounded sinus is defined by a pair of medially curved processes arising frontal to the condyles. The peristome is most pronounced proximally and variably produced into short processes. There is no uncinuate process and no suboral avicularium; small adventitious avicularia, with triangular rostrum, thin crossbar and lacking a palate, develop on the proximal frontal shields of zooids and tend to be directed towards adjacent peristomes. The ovicell is broader than long, with a very short, broad labellum; it has a semielliptical frontal tabula, exposing smooth entoecium, and develops a coarsely granular oocelial cover. Colonies from Iririki Island consisted of ten or fewer autozooids, with the ancestrula still visible. The ancestrula is oval with a transversely elliptical opesia occupying half its frontal surface; the opesial rim has few, very widely spaced, knob-like denticulations, and there are eight evenly spaced spines.

*Distribution*

Originally described from Mauritius (Hayward, 1988), these records from Vanuatu represent only the second occurrence of the species.

