

RHYNCHOZOON SPLENDENS HAYWARD

(Fig. 22C-E)

Rhynchozoon splendens Hayward, 1988: 335, pl. 13, figs f,g.

Rhynchozoon splendens: Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 294, figs 31f, 32a,b.

Rhynchozoon rostratum: Winston & Heimberg, 1986: 38, figs 95-98; Scholz, 1991: 317, pl. 18, figs 1, 2, 5.

Description

Colony unilaminar to multilaminar; autozooids oval to hexagonal, commonly $0.37-0.5 \times 0.25-0.3$ mm. Frontal shield convex, with large and conspicuous marginal pores; vitreous, initially smooth but developing large, rounded nodules early in ontogeny. Primary orifice about as wide as long, 0.12 mm diameter; distal denticulations small and widely spaced, sinus short, U-shaped, with prominent thickenings laterally, below indistinct condyles. No oral spines. Peristome completely encircling orifice, partially obscuring it; rim produced into short, knobbed processes, proximally with an eccentrically placed U-shaped notch, adjacent to a short, tapered uncinuate process projecting into the peristome lumen. A prominent lateral-oral avicularium incorporated into the peristome in some autozooids; its proximal portion continuous with the uncinuate process, rostrum triangular, hooked distally, directed distolaterally. Frontal adventitious avicularia present in later ontogeny, 1, rarely 2 per autozoid, characteristic: proximolateral to peristome, directed distolaterally, with elongate, diamond-shaped outline. Ovicell slightly broader than long, with extensive frontal tabula; aperture straight edged, 2 short lateral notches defining a short, broad labellum; developing a nodular oocelial cover.

Remarks

Rhynchozoon splendens is readily recognized by its orbicular orifice, slightly wider than long, a short U-shaped sinus, grossly nodular frontal shield and diamond-shaped frontal avicularia; the latter were not seen in the Vanuatu material.

Distribution

Rhynchozoon splendens appears widespread throughout the Indo-West Pacific. It was originally described from Mauritian reef flats and was found to be common in similar habitats at Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef (Ryland & Hayward, 1992). The species has been recorded from Indonesia, the Philippines and Australia, with the records from Iririki and Erakor Islands, Efate the most easterly to date.

