

**Parasmittina serrula** Soule & Soule, 1973  
Plates 28C; 31A-C

*Parasmittina serrula* Soule & Soule, 1973: 386, figs 3D-F.

*Parasmittina serrula*: Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001 (part): 76, fig. 14E,F (cum syn.).

**Type material** Paratype: NHM 2000.2.1.8, (H.7.A.17.) Station 601, Napili Bay, Maui, Hawaii, 3 m. 06.08.1966.

**Other material examined** SBMNH 365417, **515-87**; NHM 1998.8.4.36, Irikeri Island, Vanuatu.

**Description** Colony unilaminar. Autozooids rectangular to hexagonal, convex (ca 0.65 x 0.40 mm). Frontal shield slightly nodular, marginal pores large. Primary orifice rounded, as long as wide (0.09 x 0.09 mm), distal border denticulate, lyrula relatively narrow, occupying approximately one third proximal border, shallow, i.e. half as deep as wide, anvil-shaped, with pointed corners and median ridge leading to slight median concavity, condyles thin, downcurved, rounded, denticulate, up to six denticles visible. Three or four stout oral spines, five or six in periancestrula zooids. Peristome well developed proximally and laterally, a deep notch midproximal. Avicularia numerous: most often lateral-suboral, single or paired, of similar shape but uneven lengths, rostrum elongate, narrow, parallel-sided with denticulate edges, rounded at tip, and proximally directed, characteristically, one or both of these lies on its side; enlarged avicularia frequent, originating lateral to orifice, proximally directed, extending length of autozoid, curving medially, the rostrum is narrow proximally, widening distally, slightly flared laterally, rim deeply toothed, crossbar slender, palatal foramen large, almost triangular; sporadic, single small avicularia, rostrum acutely triangular, finely denticulate, acute to frontal shield, directed proximally. Ovicell globular, prominent, recumbent on the frontal shield of distal autozoid, wider than long, perforated by about 20 small pores, imperforate, thin oocial cover developed by the encroaching peristome, forming a complete rim above the ovicell aperture.

**Remarks** *Parasmittina serrula* is characterised by its primary orifice, the denticulate anter, four spines, small, square lyrula and thin, rounded, denticulate condyles. The avicularia lying on their side is also characteristic, as are the large avicularia with their coarsely denticulate, flared lateral edges.

The small triangular median avicularia seen on some autozooids in the Solomon Islands material has not been described before in this species; however it is not uncommon for one or other of the avicularian morphs, described previously, to be missing from whole areas of a colony (Tilbrook *et al.*, 2001). In all other respects the Solomon Islands material is identical to the paratype material examined.

Tilbrook *et al.* (2001) were mistaken in assigning some of their Vanuatu material to *Parasmittina serrula*, it instead belonging to *P. trunculata* described below.

**Distribution** Originally described from Hawaii, *Parasmittina serrula* is the most widely recorded of the species of *Parasmittina* found in the Solomon Islands. It has been reported previously from the Caribbean, the Great Barrier Reef, the Philippines, Vanuatu and the Kermadec Ridge. Given the great number of *Parasmittina* species still being discovered, however, and the relatively limited distributions of those described, the Caribbean records of this species might benefit from a re-examination using SEM. In the Solomon Islands it was found from Mboli Passage, between Nggela Sule and Nggela Pile, Florida Islands.

