

Poricella spathulata (Canu & Bassler, 1929). Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.65, fig.10B.

PORICELLA SPATHULATA (CANU & BASSLER)
(Fig. 10B)

Hiantopora spathulata Canu & Bassler, 1929: 116, pl. 11, figs 13, 14.

Arachnopusia spathulata: Harmer, 1957: 657, pl. 68, figs 22, 23, 25, 31.

Tremogasterina spathulata: Cook, 1977: 136, text-figs 1B, 5A, pl. 5A; Hayward, 1988: 296, pl. 5D; Scholz, 1991: 289, pl. 7, fig. 6; Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 249, fig. 13e.

Remarks

Large vicarious avicularia were present in a colony from Port Vila Harbour. Their rare occurrence in colonies was noted by Cook (1977); most lack them but when they are present within a colony they are numerous.

Distribution

Cook (1977) gave a very comprehensive guide to the distribution of *Poricella spathulata* (as *Tremogasterina*), showing that it is widely distributed in the tropical Indo-West Pacific from the Red Sea to the Great Barrier Reef. *Poricella spathulata* is very common on inner reef flats and was present in over half of the samples studied by Ryland & Hayward (1992) from Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef. It was the most commonly found bryozoan species in Vanuatu, in samples from Poanangisu, Iririki Island and Erakor Island, Efate, making these the most easterly records for this species.

