

Exochella armata (Hincks, 1882). Gordon, 1989, p.29, pl.13D-F.

Exochella armata (Hincks) (Plate 13, D-F)

Mucronella diaphana var. *armata* Hincks, 1882: 167; Jelly 1889: 192;
Hutton 1891: 105; 1904: 322.

Exochella zelanica Levinsen, 1909: 322; Gordon 1967: 58.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: NZOI Stns D273, E809. DPG: Lyall Bay.

DISTRIBUTION: Auckland, Wellington, Tasman Bay, Banks Peninsula, southern Fiordland; 0-75 m.

DESCRIPTION: Colony encrusting. Zooids almost as wide as long, 0.23-0.45 x 0.25-0.43 mm, relatively smooth walled. Frontal shield convex, rising to a prominent suboral umbo, with 7-8 areolae along each margin. Orifice with a prominent, somewhat squared, process in the middle of the proximal rim, flanked by a rounded pseudosinus on each side; this arrangement with a similar appearance from beneath. Oral spines typically 3, on the distal rim. Avicularia 0-2, mostly one, borne on the lateral margin where the zooid is widest, adjacent to the umbo or more proximally, with complete pivot bar and acute rostrum, directed laterally; occasional small proximal avicularia directed proximally. Ovicell as prominent as the suboral umbo and as convex, with its own umbo, bordered distobasally by areolae.

REMARKS: Not a common species, it occurs on algae, shells, or rocks.

