

Cribralaria new species
pseudosolomonensis Plate 16C-D

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365201, 408-84.
 Paratype: SBMNH 365202, 408-84.

Other material examined SBMNH 365203-207, 401-84; SBMNH 365208-209, 413-84.

Description Colony encrusting. Autozooids with frontal shield composed entirely of 12-14 branching costae; tips of costae fuse along mid-line as do lateral branches when contacting those of neighbouring costae (0.65-0.70 x 0.35-0.40 mm). Orifice D-shaped, rounded distally, somewhat squared proximally, a fused pair of costae making up proximal margin, each with a frontally projecting spinous process. A single interzooidal avicularium distal to all zooids (ca 0.64 mm), with small condyles over extensive proximal palate and long, acute rostrum directed obliquely distally; curved, setiform mandible greatly extends past truncated end of rostrum, with six to eight basally pointing needle-like teeth from midpoint to whip-like terminal end. Ovicell immersed in avicularian chamber, identified by presence of a denticulate bulbous hood distal to orifice.

Etymology From *pseudos*, Gr. false. Named for its similarity to *Cribralaria solomonensis*.

Remarks *Cribralaria pseudosolomonensis* is characterised by its open framework of frontal costae, its denticulate ovicell hood and its long denticulate avicularian mandibles.

This species is very similar to *Cribralaria solomonensis* but differs in several ways: *C. pseudosolomonensis* has 12-14 costae with two intercostal lacunae, *C. solomonensis* has 13-18 costae and four to six intercostal lacunae; while the proximal edge of the orifice in both species is formed by two fused modified costae, each with a frontally projecting spinous process, the proximal edge appears smooth in *C. pseudosolomonensis* whereas *C. solomonensis* bears two or three distally projecting teeth; the ovicells, identified by the presence of distal apertural denticles, are more bulbous and therefore more obvious in *C. pseudosolomonensis* than in *C. solomonensis*. *Cribralaria pseudosolomonensis* is also similar to *C. curvirostris* Silén, 1941 in its possession of a pair of proximal oral spinous processes, however those in Silén's species are positioned in the proximal lateral corners of the orifice and his species also has a greater number of costae, which appear quite regular in their positioning, and intercostal lacunae. This regular positioning of costae is also seen in *Cribralaria setosa* (Kirkpatrick, 1890) and *C. solomonensis* and may be due to their number of costae, as species with fewer costae, such as *C. austrinsulensis* Gordon, 1989 and *C. ponticula* Soule *et al.*, 1998 have less regularly formed and positioned costae.

Distribution *Cribralaria pseudosolomonensis* appears to be more widespread than *C. solomonensis* being found from Guadalcanal, the Russell Islands and north to Choiseul, though still only limited to the Solomon Islands.

