

Thornelya fuscina Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001
Plate 54E-F

Thornelya fuscina Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 90, Fig. 17E,F.

Type material Holotype: NHM 1998.8.4.183, Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu.

Other material examined SBMNH 365717, **406-84**; NHM 1903.1.29.34, Falefuti, Funafuti, Tuvalu, 146 m.

Description Colony encrusting, forming small unilaminar patches. Autozooids rectangular to irregularly polygonal (ca 0.57 x 0.48 mm), slightly convex, separated by distinct grooves and obvious raised lateral walls. Primary orifice egg-shaped, longer than wide (ca 0.15 x 0.12 mm), the deep anter separated from shallowly concave poster by large, rounded-triangular condyles. Three to four distal oral spines present in younger autozooids, disappearing with ontogeny. Frontal shield with large marginal pores and smaller, scattered frontal pores, immersed in thickened frontal calcification giving an almost tuberculate appearance. Adventitious avicularia small, lateral-oral, single or paired, of two types; either, rostrum small, triangular, acute to frontal plane, directed distomedially towards orifice, mandible acutely triangular, crossbar complete, or, rostrum longer, elongate-triangular, less acute to frontal plane, distally directed, mandible acutely triangular, crossbar complete. In some autozooids a third avicularium is present at proximal edge of distal autozoid, identical to small avicularia, directed towards orifice of preceding autozoid, rostrum raised from frontal plane. Ovicells globular, wider than long, perforated as autozoid frontal shield, closed by maternal operculum.

Remarks *Thornelya fuscina* is characterised by the shape of its primary orifice and by the perioral avicularia, some longer than others.

Tilbrook *et al.* (2001) described *Thornelya fuscina* from Vanuatu distinguishing it from other species of the genus using features of the primary orifice, the number of oral avicularia and the number of oral spines.

The larger oral avicularia found in the Solomon Islands material and that from Tuvalu only appear in conjunction with one of the smaller avicularia, whereas the smaller avicularia may occur singly.

Distribution *Thornelya fuscina* has an Indo-Pacific distribution having been found from Sri Lanka, New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to Tuvalu in the east. In the Solomon Islands a single, small, infertile colony was found encrusting coral debris from Ilailon, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands.

