Jellyella tuberculata (Bosc, 1802). Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.37 fig.2A,B.

JELLYELLA TUBERCULATA (BOSC)
(Fig. 2D)

Flustra tuberculata Bosc, 1802: 143.
Nichtina tuberculata: Harmer, 1926: 208, pl. 13, fig. 10.
Membranipora tuberculata: Osburn, 1950: 23, pl. 2, figs 4–6 (cum syn.); Cook, 1985: 82, pl. 3A (cum syn.); Hayward & Ryland, 1995a: 537, fig. 3C.
Jellyella tuberculata: Taylor & Monks, 1997: 41, figs 3,14,15.

Remarks

The species found in Vanuatu seems to agree well with the figures of Winston (1982) and Hayward & Ryland (1995a). Autozooids are 0.5–0.6 × 0.35–0.4 mm, and gymnocystal tubercles are clearly evident in frontal proximal angles. The cryptocyst is minutely tuberculate, deeper proximally and many autozooids have a single marginal spinule on the inner edge of the opesia. Generally, there are two distolateral and two proximolateral septula on each lateral wall. The distal wall, which appears as a slight shelf, bears up to ten uniporous septula close to the basal wall.

The type material of *Membranipora tenella* Hincks, 1880b, on *Sargassum* from Florida, is very similar to *Jellyella tuberculata*. However Hincks' specimen has a deeper proximal gymnocyst and the tubercles are far closer together as a consequence, i.e. not in the proximal angles. The species illustrated by Winston (1982) as *Membranipora tenella* Hincks, is not Hincks' species, rather it is more similar to *Crassimarginatella maxillaria* sp. nov. (see below).

Distribution

This species has been quoted as being "found wherever *Sargassum* drifts over the warmer seas . . ." (Osburn, 1950). Originally described from the Atlantic, this species has been recorded from warm temperate and tropical seas worldwide. However, many variations have been noted in morphology both within and between geographic areas (Harmer, 1926; Osburn, 1950) which perhaps indicates a complex of species. It was found encrusting algae (of indeterminable assignment) from Port Vila Harbour, Efate.