

Microporella dentilingua Tilbrook, 2006, p.210, pl.45E-F.

Microporella dentilingua new species
Plate 45E-F

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365637 **501-87**.

Other material examined SBMNH 365638, **506-87**.

Description Colony encrusting, developing extensive sheets. Autozooids roughly hexagonal (ca 0.55 x 0.35 mm). Primary orifice wider than long (ca 0.10 x 0.07 mm), almost semicircular, proximal border denticulate. Three spines distally, none visible in ovicellate zooids. Ascopore less than one orifice length proximal of orifice itself, raised slightly from frontal shield by rim, its median process semicircular, the opening sausage-shaped. A single avicularium, relatively large, proximolateral to ascopore, distolaterally directed; rostrum abruptly tapered, crossbar complete, mandible setiform, hooked distally. Ovicell personate, almost spherical, nodular, evenly perforated by minute pores. Fertile zooids produce a thick peristomial rim, peaked medially and passing distal to ascopore, fusing either side of ovicell itself.

Etymology From *dentis*, L. tooth; *lingua*, L. tongue. Named for the denticulate proximal border of the primary orifice.

Remarks *Microporella dentilingua* is characterised by its primary orifice, denticulate proximal border and three oral spines. It also produces a personate ovicell. *M. dentilingua* is very similar to *M. harmeri* in the possession of a denticulate proximal oral border. However, it differs from this species by the possession of a smaller median process in the ascopore and setiform avicularian mandibles, which lack the lateral laminae or basal processes of *M. harmeri sensu stricto*.

Microporella dentilingua is very similar to *M. hawaiiensis* (Soule *et al.*, 2003) and *M. lepueana* (Soule *et al.*, 2004); both of which also bear three oral spines, have a denticulate proximal orificial border and produce personate ovicells. These latter species may be conspecific; their original material should be compared, and compared with material of *M. orientalis sensu* Ryland & Hayward (1992) and Tilbrook *et al.* (2001). However, *M. hawaiiensis* and *M. lepueana* differ from *M. dentilingua* in the positioning of the ascopore and size of the avicularia. The ascopore in *M. dentilingua* is much nearer the orifice than that seen in these species and the avicularian rostrum is larger.

Distribution Two colonies of *Microporella dentilingua* were found in the Solomon Islands material examined, one from Anuha Reefs, Florida Islands and the other from Mbanika Island, Russell Islands.

