

**Rhynchozoon solitarium** new species  
Plate 66D-F

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365796, 407-84.

**Description** Colony multilaminar. Autozooids hexagonal to irregularly polygonal (ca 0.60 x 0.50 mm). Frontal shield slightly flattened, developing rounded nodules in ontogeny, marginal pores relatively large, numerous. Primary orifice a rounded square, as wide as long (ca 0.11 x 0.10 mm), distal denticulations stout, sinus short, drop-shaped, occupying about one fifth its width, condyles distinct, large, rounded triangular, frontally pointing at their tips. No oral spines. Suboral avicularium in few autozooids, very large, on swollen cystid occupying much of frontal wall, rostrum acute to frontal shield, asymmetrically spatulate, arching distally, distal tip asymmetrically pointed and hooked, large rostral palate, crossbar complete, elongate triangular opesia, directed distolaterally. Peristome variably produced into a number of conical processes, generally not obscuring orifice. Frontal avicularia rare, generally lacking, or one per autozooid, rostrum acute to frontal shield, triangular, hooked distally, rostral palate lacking, opesia large, triangular, crossbar appears incomplete, directed distolaterally. Ovicell globular, prominent, wider than long, smooth frontally, oval area of endooecium, becoming covered but not immersed by ooecial calcification, wide labellum, readily visible in frontal view.

**Etymology** From *solitarius*, L. alone. Named because only a single colony of this species is known.

**Remarks** *Rhynchozoon solitarium* is characterised by its rounded square primary orifice, its short, drop-shaped sinus, and the large, curving spatulate suboral avicularia. The numerous marginal pores and prominent ovicells are also characteristic. Only a single triangular frontal avicularium was seen on this specimen.

Other species of *Rhynchozoon* bear enlarged suboral avicularia, e.g. *R. ardeolum* Ryland & Hayward, 1992 and *R. incomitatum*, rather than the more usual small peristomial avicularia. However, the morphology of these large avicularia differs, as do the morphologies of the primary orifices of these species, in particular the shape of their proximal sinuses.

**Distribution** *Rhynchozoon solitarium* is known only from the Solomon Islands, and from only one colony. This was found from Gibson Island, Hamilton Passage, Choiseul.



