

Rhynchozoon tristelidion new species
Plate 68A-B

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365817, 402-84.
Paratypes: SBMNH 365818-820, 402-84.

Description Colony unilaminar. Autozooids distinct, rectangular to irregularly polygonal (ca 0.60 x 0.30 mm). Frontal shield convex, smooth but developing slight, rounded granulations in ontogeny, few, irregularly spaced marginal pores. Primary orifice oval, wider than long (ca 0.13 x 0.11 mm), distal denticulations stout, sinus shallow, saucer-shaped, occupying over one half its width, condyles inconspicuous, rounded. No oral spines. Peristome produced into three conical processes, one shorter medially, two longer laterally, one either side, not obscuring the primary orifice. Suboral avicularium in some autozooids, replacing one lateral process, the other processes reduced in size, rostrum elongate triangular, hooked distally, directed frontolaterally, no uncinat process. Frontal avicularia not observed. Ovicell not observed.

Etymology From *tri-*, L. three; *stela*, L. pillar, column. Named for the three peristomial processes around the orifice.

Remarks *Rhynchozoon tristelidion* is characterised by its oval orifice, wider than long, its shallow saucer-shaped sinus, and small, inconspicuous, rounded condyles. The three peristomial processes, convex frontal shield and irregularly spaced marginal pores are also characteristic.

Rhynchozoon tristelidion is slightly reminiscent of *Rhynchozoon detectum* Harmer, 1957, however, while their primary orifices are almost identical the shapes of their suboral avicularia differ, only *R. tristelidion* has three peristomial processes and it lacks the large, proximally directed frontal avicularia seen in *R. detectum*. *R. tristelidion* is also similar to *R. multiformatatum* Liu *et al.* (2001), but it differs from this species in its lack of spines and frontal avicularia.

Distribution *Rhynchozoon tristelidion* is only known from the Solomon Islands. Only four colonies of this species are known, taken from off Lungga Point, east of Honiara, Guadalcanal.

