

Robertsonidra bacrionis Tilbrook, 2006, p.267, pl.59D-F.

Robertsonidra bacrionis new species
Plate 59D-F

Type material Holotype: NHM 2002.3.19.1 (ex. SBMNH 365744), Anuha Reefs, Florida Islands, Solomon Islands.

Paratypes: SBMNH 365744-745 **501-87**.

Other material examined SBMNH 365746, **410-84**; SBMNH 365747, **403-84**; 1903.1.29.43, Tulonga, Funafuti, Tuvalu, 64-109 m.

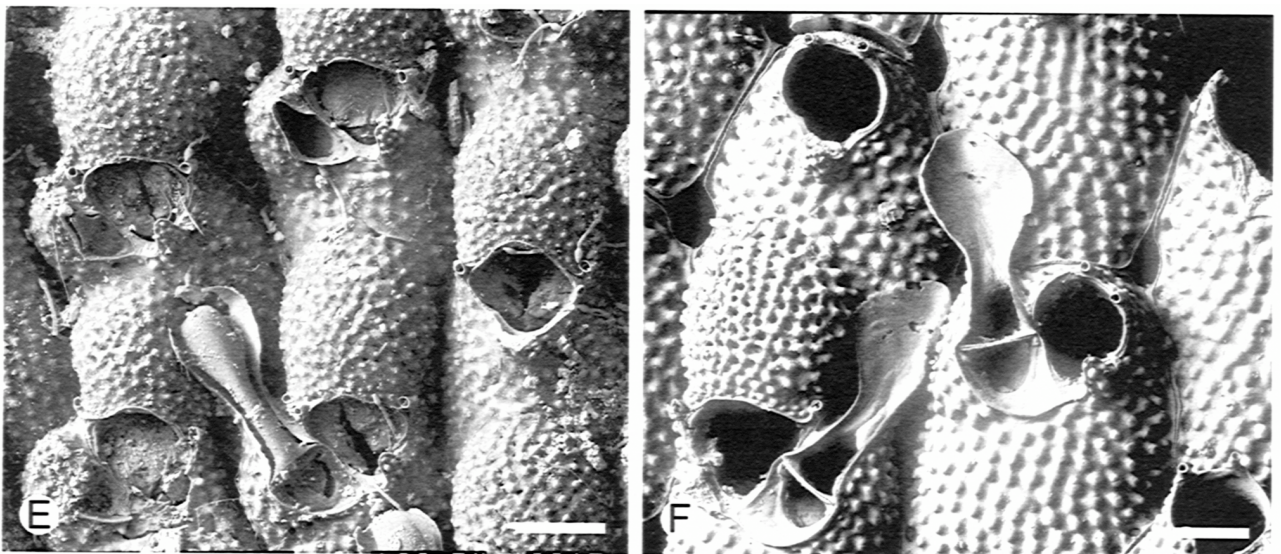
Description Autozooids oval to hexagonal, slightly convex, with distinct sutures, marginal pores very small (0.70–0.85 x 0.45–0.55 mm). Primary orifice round, as wide as long (ca 0.17 x 0.17 mm), with wide, bowl-shaped sinus flanked by small, pointed condyles; two thin spines present, bases retained in ovicellate zooids; umbo present. Avicularia of two types, one or other present on a single zooid, lateral-suboral, opposite umbo: either, acute to frontal plane on an inflated cystid, rostrum triangular, hooked distally, directed laterally; or, normal to frontal plane, rostrum elongate, spatulate, distally directed, its wide, distal tip resting on the frontal shield of a distal zooid; mandible spatulate. Ovicell prominent, globular, longer than wide.

Etymology From *bacrio*, L. ladle. Named for the shape of the large, distally directed frontal avicularia.

Remarks *Robertsonidra bacrionis* is characterised by its round orifice and wide bowl-shaped sinus with pointed condyles but more particularly by its large, spatulate, distally directed frontal avicularia.

Whilst the smaller avicularia and orifice shape of *Robertsonidra bacrionis* are reminiscent of *R. argentea* the inflated cystid on which the avicularium sits and the presence of orificial condyles in *R. bacrionis* distinguishes the two species. The large spatulate avicularia are unique to this species within this genus.

Distribution *Robertsonidra bacrionis* is known from only five colonies. Four of these were found from Anuha Reefs, Florida Islands and Yandina, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands in the Solomon Islands; the other from Tulonga, Funafuti, Tuvalu. This species therefore might be expected to occur elsewhere in the Southwest Pacific region.



Robertsonidra bacronis Tilbrook, 2006, p.267, pl.59D-F.

