

Hippomenella rudicula new species
Plate 57C-D

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365723 403-84.

Description Colony encrusting. Autozooids very large (ca 1.10 x 0.70 mm), hexagonal or irregularly polygonal, convex, separated by deep grooves. Frontal shield cryptocystidean, thick and smooth, two series of large pores distributed around periphery of zooid, central area imperforate proximal to orifice, calcification becoming thicker and more nodular with ontogeny, the pores becoming set more deeply. Primary orifice almost clithriate, longer than wide (ca 0.24 x 0.20 mm), anter deeply arched, poster concave, bowl-shaped, condyles pointed, proximo-medially directed. Approximately 14 evenly spaced oral spines. Adventitious avicularia on frontal shield, proximolateral to orifice, generally paired, small, rostrum slightly raised from frontal, spatulate, crossbar complete, proximomedially directed. Ovicells not observed. Numerous basal pore-chambers present.

Etymology From *rudicula*, L. wooden spoon. Named for the shape of the mandible of the adventitious avicularia.

Remarks *Hippomenella rudicula* is characterised by its large size, clithriate primary orifice with 14 oral spines, two series of peripheral pores, and small spatulate avicularia. Ristedt & Hillmer (1985) illustrated a species they recorded as *Hippomenella repugnans* Canu & Bassler, 1929, from the Philippines. The single zooid they figured appears very similar to *H. rudicula*, but does not agree well with Canu & Bassler's description or figures (1929: 323, pl. 38, figs 1, 1'). Reference to Ristedt & Hillmer's (1985) material and Canu & Bassler's type would clarify the identity of this species.

Distribution *Hippomenella rudicula* is known only with certainty from Yandina, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands, Solomon Islands.

