

Parasmittina aculeata Tilbrook, 2006. Tilbrook, 2006, p.157, pl.29D, 31D-E.

Parasmittina aculeata new species
Plates 29D; 31D-E

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365423, **501-87**.
Paratypes: SBMNH 365424-431, **501-87**.

Description Colony unilaminar. Autozooids rectangular to hexagonal, slightly convex (ca 0.50 x 0.35 mm). Frontal shield almost smooth, slightly granular, marginal pores large. Primary orifice round, wider than long (0.11 x 0.09 mm), distal border smooth, lyrula broad, occupying approximately half proximal border, relatively shallow, i.e. half as deep as wide, anvil-shaped, with pointed corners and straight distal edge, condyles thin, downcurved, sharply pointed. One or two (more in periancestrula zooids) oral spines. Peristome well developed laterally, as paired lappets. Avicularia common, originating distolateral-oral, single, monomorphic but varying in size, proximally directed, usually large on raised cystid, extending full length of autozooid, but may be shorter, rostrum narrow, elongate, parallel-sided with denticulate edges, rounded at tip, crossbar slender, palatal foramen large, rounded triangular, mandible almost setiform, curving basally over “humped” rostrum. Ovicell globular, prominent, recumbent on frontal shield of distal autozooid, wider than long, perforated by many small pores, imperforate, thin ooecial cover developed by encroaching peristome, forming a complete rim above ovicell aperture.

Etymology From *aculeus*, L. sting, spur. Named for the shape of the sharply pointed orificial condyles.

Remarks *Parasmittina aculeata* is characterised by its primary orifice, its broad, shallow lyrula and downcurved, sharply pointed condyles. However, the monomorphic avicularia and the smoothness of its frontal shield are also diagnostic.

The primary orifice of *Parasmittina aculeata* is slightly reminiscent of *P. fistulata* (Harmer, 1957); however, while the shape of the condyles is similar, the lyrula in *P. aculeata* is far broader and shallower than that seen in Harmer's species. Harmer's species also produces polymorphic avicularia including some with a large spatulate rostrum, while *P. aculeata* only produces a single type of avicularium. The primary orifice and smooth frontal shield calcification of *P. aculeata* are similar to *P. ovilirata*, but *P. ovilirata* has small lateral oral avicularia and extremely large spatulate avicularia, and its autozooids are more convex.

Distribution *Parasmittina aculeata* is known only from the Solomon Islands, found at Anuha Reefs, south of Anuha Island, Florida Islands.

