

Parasmittina trunculata Tilbrook, 2006. Tilbrook, 2006, p.163, pl.29H, 33D-F.

Parasmittina trunculata new species
Plates 29H; 33D-F

Parasmittina serrula: Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001 (part): 76.

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 365470, **411-84**.
Paratypes: SBMNH 365471-477, **411-84**.

Other material examined SBMNH 365478-487, **401-84**; SBMNH 365488-490, **403-84**; SBMNH 365491-494, **406-84**; SBMNH 365495-496, **407-84**; SBMNH 365497, **409-84**; SBMNH 365498-502, **410-84**; SBMNH 365503-506, **413-84**; SBMNH 365507-518, **501-87**; SBMNH 365519, **505-87**; SBMNH 365520-521, **506-87**; NHM 2003.5.13.20, (18.34) 406-84; NHM 2003.5.13.21, (18.32) 515-87; NHM (unregistered, ex. 1936.12.30.60B), Sri Lanka, Thornely Coll.; NHM (unregistered, SEM87), Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu.

Description Colony unilaminar. Autozooids rectangular to irregularly polygonal, flat or slightly convex (ca 0.55 x 0.35 mm). Frontal shield slightly nodular, marginal pores large and numerous. Primary orifice rounded, as long as wide (0.13 x 0.13 mm), distal border smooth; lyrula very narrow, occupying approximately one eighth proximal border, very long, i.e. over twice as long as wide, volcano- or truncated-spire-shaped with slightly pointed corners and longitudinal median ridge, condyles very large, robust, rounded triangular, medially directed, finely denticulate over distal and medial surfaces. One to three stout oral spines in early ontogeny. Peristome well developed proximally and laterally, a deep notch midproximally. Avicularia dimorphic, numerous: most often lateral-suboral, single or paired, of similar shape but uneven lengths, rostrum elongate, narrow, parallel-sided, lateral edges denticulate, rounded at tip, proximally directed, characteristically one or both of these lies on their side; enlarged avicularia frequent, originating lateral to orifice, proximally directed, extending length of autozoid, rostrum straight, spatulate, narrow proximally, widening distally, denticulate rim distally, crossbar slender, palatal foramen large, oval. Ovicell globular, prominent, wider than long, perforated by over 20 small pores, imperforate, thin oocial cover developed by encroaching peristome, forming a complete rim above ovicell aperture, eventually all but immersing it.

Etymology From *trunculatus*, L. maimed, cut off. Named for its truncated spire-shaped lyrula.

Remarks *Parasmittina trunculata* is characterised by its primary orifice, its truncated spire-shaped lyrula and very large, robust, finely denticulate condyles. This species has the most distinctive lyrula/condyle combination of any of the *Parasmittina* species described here. The avicularia lying on their side are also characteristic, as are the enlarged straight, spatulate avicularia.

Parasmittina trunculata is most similar to *P. serrula*, with which it has apparently been confused in the past. This is primarily because of the numerous lateral suboral avicularia that often lie on their sides being common to both species. From examination of the primary orifices of each species, and because *P. trunculata* produces enlarged spatulate avicularia while *P. serrula* avicularia have coarsely denticulate flared edges, the two species can easily be separated.

The colony is covered by a thin translucent membrane, which varies from pale pink to pink-orange when dried.

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Distribution *Parasmittina trunculata* was the commonest species of *Parasmittina* found on the Solomon Islands. It has also been found from Sri Lanka and Vanuatu. *P. trunculata* has an Indo-West Pacific distribution and will doubtless be found within this range in the future. In the Solomon Islands this species was found from Mbokona Bay, Honiara, Guadalcanal; Gibson Island, Hamilton Passage, Choiseul; Anuha Reefs, Anuha Island, Florida Islands; West Bay, Russell Islands as well as other sites around Mbanika Island, Russell Islands.

