

*Thalamoporella granulata* Levinsen, 1909. Tilbrook, 2006, p.87, pl.12D.

**Thalamoporella granulata** Levinsen, 1909  
Plate 12D

*Thalamoporella granulata*, var. *B* Levinsen, 1909: 189, 190, Fig. 6a, figs 1a-f.

*Thalamoporella granulata*: Harmer, 1926 (in part): 297; Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 241, Fig. 11a,b; Soule, Soule & Chaney, 1992: 48, figs 66–68; Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 55.

Type material Holotype: NHM 1928.3.6.45, Torres Strait, Haddon Coll.

Other material examined SBMNH 365198, 506-87.

Description Colony unilaminar, encrusting, often extensive. Autozooids almost rectangular (0.55 x 0.35 mm), distinct, separated by shallow grooves. Gymnocyst reduced, only visible around distal orificial rim, tiny tubercles sometimes present on each side of orifice at contact with cryptocyst. Cryptocyst with flat, finely beaded surface, reaching around proximal rim of orifice to level of condyles, punctured frontally by irregularly spaced round pores; a small, raised, beaded mural rim proximally and laterally. Opesiules irregularly oval, of unequal size. Orifice rounded, slightly longer than wide, distal rim raised slightly, anter twice as deep as poster, with small, triangular, lateral condyles positioned at edge of cryptocyst. Autozoooid shorter than avicularium (ratio 1:1.24). Avicularia common, torqued towards sibling zooid, rostrum constituting two thirds total length, asymmetrically rounded toward sibling, with smooth distal platform, distally directed, mandible asymmetrical, subspatulate, cryptocyst imperforate, finely granular, single, central, wide, rounded opesia and two pointed condyles at junction of distal gymnocyst and proximal cryptocyst. Ovicellate zooids similar to autozooids, bivalved ovicell smooth, bulbous, thin-walled, with a triangular aperture and obvious median suture. Three types of spicules present: very small C-shaped callipers and two sizes of compasses, small to medium, with 120° bend, and medium to large, almost straight.

Remarks *Thalamoporella granulata* is characterised by its torqued avicularia/sibling zooid arrangement. The avicularium is larger than the autozoooid.

Distribution *Thalamoporella granulata* has a very wide distribution within the Indo-West Pacific, having originally been described from Torres Strait. It has since been recorded from the Seychelles, Indonesia, the Philippines, Great Barrier Reef, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, and from the Pliocene of Taiwan. During the course of this study it was found from Mbanika Island, Russell Islands, while Soule *et al.* (1992) recorded it from the same locality and Anuha Island, Florida Islands.

