

*Robertsonidra novella* Ryland & Hayward, 1992, p. 261, fig. 19a.

Now *Robertsonidra porifera* (Maplestone, 1909), see Tilbrook, 2006.

***Robertsonidra novella* sp. nov.**  
(Fig. 19a)

**TYPE MATERIAL**

**HOLOTYPE:** GH5230, Heron Island, Stn 22, 15 Apr 1972.

**ETYMOLOGY**

Latin *novella*, diminutive of *novus*, new.

**DESCRIPTION**

Colony forming small, silvery, unilaminar patches. Autozooids oval to hexagonal, strongly convex, separated by distinct grooves; 0.5-0.6 × 0.35-0.4 mm. Primary orifice transversely oval, proximal border with a short, U-shaped sinus flanked by small condyles; one or two short, evanescent spines present distally, their bases persisting especially in ovicelled autozooids; a short umbo situated lateral to the sinus in many autozooids. Frontal wall regularly tuberculate, glistening under low magnification, with a single series of round marginal pores. Avicularia sporadic, lateral suboral; rostrum elongate triangular, directed proximo-laterally. In some autozooids a second, shorter avicularium occurs lateral to the sinus, with the rostrum acute to frontal plane and laterally directed. Ovicell slightly wider than long, globular, the surface tuberculate, with minute perforations between the tubercles.

**REMARKS**

This species is distinguished from *R. argentea* by its oval orifice, which has a distinct proximal sinus bounded by small condyles. It was present in three of the Heron Island samples.

