

Robertsonidra porifera (Maplestone, 1909). Tilbrook, 2006, p.263, pl.58A-C.

Robertsonidra porifera (Maplestone, 1909)
Plate 58A-C

Schizoporella porifera Maplestone, 1909: 416, pl.27, fig.16.

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

Robertsonidra novella: Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001: 92, fig. 18D.

Type material Holotype: MOV F45712, Gilbert Islands.

Other material examined SBMNH 365725, **501-87**; SBMNH 365726-730, **411-84**; NHM 1996.2.23.93, Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef; NHM 1889.8.21.85,114, Tizard, South China Sea, 49 m; NHM 1975.7.28.12, Port Phillip, Victoria, Jelly Coll.; NHM 1998.8.4.32, Iririki Island, Vanuatu; NHM 1998.8.4.309, Port Vila Harbour, Efate, Vanuatu.

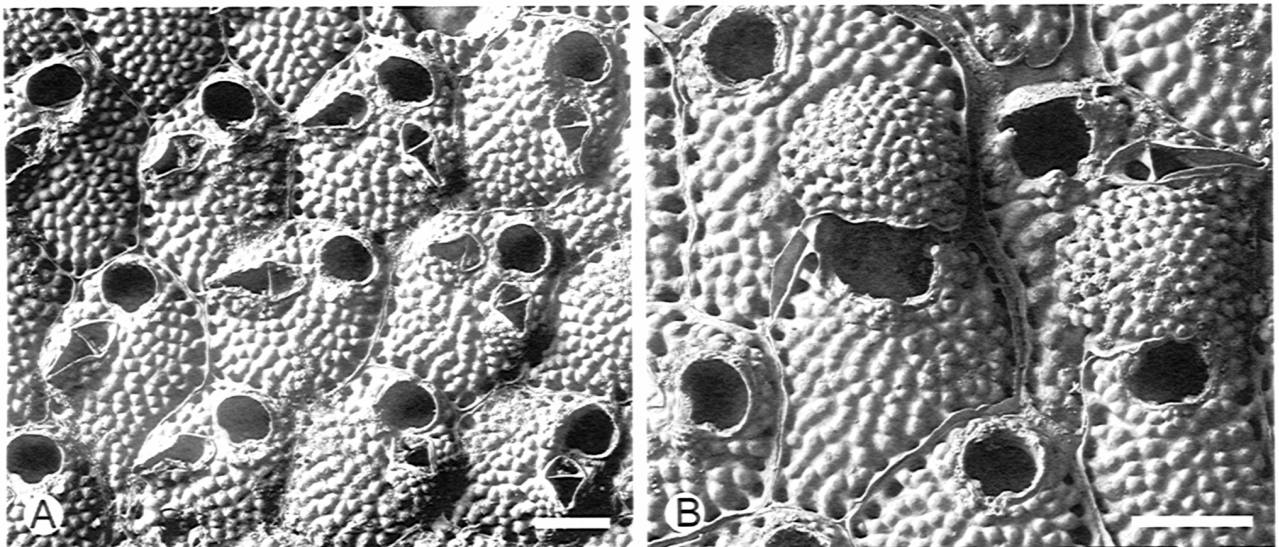
Description Autozooids oval to hexagonal, convex, with distinct sutures (0.50–0.60 x 0.35–0.45 mm). Primary orifice oval, wider than long (ca 0.15 x 0.14 mm), with U-shaped sinus flanked by squared-off condyles; two thin spines present, bases retained in ovicellate zooids; often a short umbo present. Avicularia present on most autozooids, rostrum straight, elongate triangular, directed laterally or proximolaterally. A second, shorter avicularium may occur lateral to the sinus, directed laterally. Ovicell globular, wider than long.

Remarks *Robertsonidra porifera* is characterised by its oval orifice, with condyles, and its straight, elongate triangular avicularia, which may occur in pairs on a single zooid.

The large, straight avicularia of *Robertsonidra porifera* differentiates it from *R. praecipua* and *R. sutila* both of which have large, proximally curving avicularia. Both of these latter species also lack the umbo seen in *R. porifera*.

It appears that Ryland & Hayward (1992) erected *Robertsonidra novella* in ignorance of Maplestone's species.

Distribution Originally described from the Gilbert Islands, and subsequently from Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef and Vanuatu, several colonies of *Robertsonidra porifera* were found in the Solomon Islands. They were collected from Yandina, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands and Anuha Reefs, Florida Islands. This species also occurs in the South China Sea and Victoria, southern Australia.



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