

PERISTOMOECIA FLORIDANA, new species

Plate 31, Figures 6-9

*Description.*—The zoarium encrusts dead shells; the branches are formed of small successive palm-shaped areas and are dichotomous. The tubes are visible, cylindrical, striated transversely, terminated by a very long free and erect peristome. The peristome is thin, orbicular, or oval. The ovicell is orbicular, convex, with a small salient oeciostome at the center.

*Measurements.*—Diameter of orifice, 0.06 mm.

Diameter of peristome and of tubes, 0.08–0.10 mm.

Separation of peristomes, 0.50 mm.

Distance of peristomes, 0.50 mm.

*Affinities.*—All the *Berenicea* forms resemble each other, and when the micrometric dimensions are close their differentiation is very difficult. In order to separate them accurately it is necessary to

know the variations of the zoarial form, the ovicell and its deformations, and the protoecium which is almost always destroyed.

There are no recent species in which all these characters have been carefully studied and figured. Their comparison is therefore quite useless. Here the free peristome attains almost to 0.50 mm. in length; it is very fragile and is broken on dead or dried specimens.

*Occurrence.*—Albatross Station D. 2639, Straits of Florida; 25° 04' 50" N.; 80° 15' 10" W.; 56 fms.; coral sand.

*Cotypes.*—Cat. No. 7567, U.S.N.M.

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6. An ovicelled flabellate incrusting example; × 12. The oeciopore is visible in the middle of the ovicell at the upper end of the expansion.

7. An example with linear branches; × 12.

8. Initial branch; × 25. The protoecium is broken.

9. A linear branch, × 12, with very salient fine peristomes.

Albatross Station D. 2639. Straits of Florida.

