

Reptadeonella falciformis Tilbrook, 2006, p.130, pl.23A-B.

Reptadeonella falciformis new species
Plate 23A-B

Type material Holotype: SBMNH 265301 **406-84**.
Paratypes: SBMNH 265302-306 **406-84**.

Other material examined SBMNH 265307-308, **501-84**; SBMNH 265309-310, **413-84**; SBMNH 265311-312, **403-84**.

Description Colony unilaminar. Autozooids large, hexagonal, convex or slightly flattened (0.65–0.75 x 0.50–0.60 mm). Frontal shield very finely granular, with a single, round medial spiramen in depression proximal of zooid centre, surrounded by small, thin raised rim. Single series of medium-sized, irregularly spaced marginal pores, with accessory pores seen around avicularian cystid. Primary orifice almost semicircular, the shallow distal area separated from concave proximal border by large, rectangular condyles, connected by a narrow calcified shelf that runs around inner distal edge of orifice. Secondary orifice, almost circular, surmounting a tall, thin, tubular peristome, smooth on inner edges. Avicularia dimorphic, either: suborally, rostrum elongate-triangular, tapering via almost parallel-sided lateral edges to a point distally, the proximal area round, directed proximolaterally; or, large, sickle-shaped, curving through approx. 90°, originating proximolateral of orifice, looping around peristome but not affecting its shape, terminating distomedially of the peristome, expanded proximally, lateral edges parallel-sided, smooth, outer edge higher than inner, distal tip rounded, no crossbar. Gonozooids distinguished by their oval or kidney-shaped secondary orifice. Colony origin unknown.

Etymology From *falcis*, L. sickle; *forma*, L. shape. Named for the curving-shape of the frontal avicularia.

Remarks *Reptadeonella falciformis* is characterised by the size of its autozooids, but more particularly by the shape and size of its avicularia.

While the sickle-shaped avicularia appear to be produced by more species than was originally thought (see *Discussion* of *R. fissa* above) the long, thin suboral avicularia have only ever been described once previously, in *R. novissima* Tilbrook *et al.* (2001), in which they are distolaterally directed. Thus the combination of long, thin, proximolaterally directed suboral avicularia and large, sickle-shaped distally directed avicularia is unique amongst the known species of *Reptadeonella*.

Reptadeonella falciformis is another of the *Reptadeonella* species that produces official condyles (see generic *Remarks* above). They are also present in gonozooids.

Distribution *Reptadeonella falciformis* is known only from the Solomon Islands where it was found in the Russell Islands from West Bay, Yandina and Ilailon; and in the Florida Islands at Anuha Reefs, south end of Anuha Island.

