Figularia mernae Uttley & Bullivant, 1972
(Plate 2, C, D)

Figularia mernae Uttley & Bullivant, 1972: 16.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: NZOI Stns B482, B483, B484, B487, B488, B489, B490, B493, B498, B616, D270, D273, E796, E804, E817, E820, E821, E828, Q686.

DISTRIBUTION: Marlborough Sounds, Tasman Bay, Chatham Rise, Fiordland, western approaches to Foveaux Strait; 62-549 m.

DESCRIPTION: Colony encrusting. Zooids 0.43-0.66 x 0.23-0.53 mm, with a convex costal shield generally of eight opposing pairs of spines; these each with a lumen pore adjacent to the mid-line, which may be slightly carinate. Shield bordered by a well-developed gymnocyst. Orifice 0.10-0.15 mm wide, with a distinct anter and poster marked by condyles. No oral spines. Avicularium vicarious, with elongate rostrum and complete pivot bar; combined length of mandibular and postmandibular areas 0.28-0.43 mm. Ovicell prominent, with a median suture and well-developed ectooecial fenestrae; the orifice generally a little wider than autozooidal orifices.

REMARKS: A single colony from Stn E821 (Pl. 2,D), evidently of this species, is most unusual, and is reminiscent of *Euthyroides episcopalis* (Busk). It comprises an encrusting portion of autozooids and avicularia and an erect bilamellar lobe. The lobe arises from 1-2 encrusting zooids whose frontal walls evidently grow outwards. The basal zooids of the lobe are elongated and comprise two back-to-back adjacent pairs. Most of the zooids in this colony have their thin frontal shields damaged, especially in the area of the costae. The overall dimensions of both the autozooids and avicularia are the same as in typical colonies of *F. mernae* but the costal shield is much reduced, with only 3-5 pairs of costae with lumen pores; the orifice is also wider, on average 0.15-0.16 mm. There are no ovicells. The resemblance to *Euthyroides* is seen not only in the erect growth and the extensive gymnocyst but also in the extent of the compensation space. In *Figularia mernae* the frontal membrane extends not only under the costal shield but under the gymnocyst as well (Pl. 1,D) [cf. *Figularia fissa* (Hincks) (Harmer 1926: 472)]: in *Euthyroides episcopalis* there is a reduced costal shield in female zooids, typically comprising five spines, 1-3 of which have lumen pores; in autozooids the shield is further reduced, to just a pair of spines defining the proximal rim of the orifice or sometimes with additional vestigial spines. In both kinds of zooids the compensation sac extends widely under the costal area and gymnocyst. By comparison with *Euthyroides* and with the catenicellids *Costaticella hastata* (Busk) and *C. solida* (Levinsen) (*see* Banta and Wass 1979), the post-costal compensation space in *Figularia mernae* appears to be a lepralioid ascus.