

*Lifuella porelliformis* (Kirkpatrick, 1888). Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.97, fig.20C.

*LIFUELLA PORELLIFORMIS* (KIRKPATRICK)

(Fig. 20C)

*Mucronella porelliformis* Kirkpatrick, 1888: 81, pl. 9, fig. 1.

*Mucronella serratilabris* O'Donoghue, 1924: 48, pl. 3, fig. 18.

*Hippoporella spinigera*: Harmer, 1957 (in part): 1100; Hayward & Cook, 1983: 79, fig. 19C,D.

*Hippoporella porelliformis*: Hayward, 1988: 322, pl. 10, figs a,b.

Not *Hippoporella porelliformis*: Scholz, 1991: 324, pl. 19, fig. 4, pl. 7, fig. 2.

*Description*

Colony encrusting, forming small, raised, circular, silvery patches. Autozooids small, oval to hexagonal, rather broad; separated by shallow grooves, obscured by calcification later in ontogeny, c. 0.35–0.25 mm long. Primary orifice wider than long, almost D-shaped, blunt lateral condyles present. Eight long, slender, closely grouped distal oral spines. Peristome developed proximally as a prominent umbo with a substantial mucro, broad, quadrate, a finely serrated lip on its distal edge. Frontal shield covered by smooth tuberculations, imperforate except for 3–5 relatively inconspicuous marginal pores. Paired adventitious avicularia, lateral to orifice; mandible acutely triangular, directed laterally or slightly disto-laterally. Additional avicularia sometimes present on frontal shield; most frequently elongate, situated on the midline of the autozoid, the slender triangular mandible directed proximally or proximolaterally; more rarely one or two avicularia, similar to oral type but larger, situated elsewhere on the frontal shield, orientation varying. Basal pore-chambers present. Ovicell prominent, hyperstomial, recumbent on succeeding autozoid, smooth, spherical, with a large semicircular orifice, often developing a small umbo.

*Remarks*

*Lifuella porelliformis* is a very distinctive species, with its D-shaped primary orifice; eight long, slender, spines, prominent umbo, substantial quadrate mucro with a finely serrated lip on its distal edge, and paired lateral-oral triangular avicularia. Harmer (1957) seems to have confused subsequent authors by describing *Escharoides spinigera* Philipps, 1899 while illustrating a specimen which is undoubtedly Kirkpatrick's (1888) *Mucronella porelliformis*. The two species are similar, but the suboral umbo is far more pronounced in *L. porelliformis* and has denticulations on the mucro, not seen in Philipps' species, which produces a more pronounced proximal sinus and has a denticulate anter (see generic description of *Fodinella* gen. nov., above). The position and shape of the avicularia are also characteristic for *L. porelliformis*.

*Lifuella porelliformis* does closely resemble *Mucronella articulata* Philipps 1899 (here assigned to *Lifuella*, see above) both in overall colony form and in autozoid morphology. However, the latter has a more elongate orifice, only six, long, slender spines (which flare out at their ends), paired lateral avicularia, which are 'shoe'-shaped, and no denticulations on the distal edge of its suboral mucro.

Neither of the *Lifuella porelliformis* colonies found from Vanuatu showed the additional frontal-shield avicularia seen in the type specimen, described by Hayward & Cook (1983) and illustrated by Hayward (1988).

*Distribution*

*Lifuella porelliformis* was found encrusting small pieces of coral rubble in Port Vila Harbour, Efate. Its wider distribution extends to Mauritius and South Africa.

