

*Poricella robusta* (Hincks, 1884). Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.65, fig.10A.

*PORICELLA ROBUSTA* (HINCKS)  
(Fig. 10A)

*Lepralia robusta* Hincks, 1884b: 360, pl. 13, fig. 4.

*Lepralia robusta*: Hincks, 1887: 131; Thornely, 1905: 119; Waters, 1909: 152, pl. 13, figs 13, 14.

*Tremogasterina robusta*: Powell & Cook, 1967: 12, pl. 1, figs c,d; text-figs 1–4; Cook, 1977: 133, pl. 5, fig. E, pl. 8, figs B,C.

*Description*

Colony encrusting, forming large multilaminar patches. Autozooids oval, convex, separated by deep grooves in early ontogeny; *c.* 0.77 × 0.60 mm. Orifice longer than wide, slightly narrower proximally, anter separated by two very inconspicuous condyles; 2–3 distal oral spines present. Frontal wall granular, with large marginal pores and 1–3 central foramina (which may be occluded). Interzooidal avicularia (equal in number to autozooids) large, asymmetrical or spatulate; crossbar complete; rostrum with finely serrated distal edges; directed distally or distolaterally. Ovicell imperforate, finely tuberculate, initially prominent but becoming immersed. 2–3 distal pore-chambers present.

*Remarks*

Colonies are orange in life (Powell & Cook, 1967); rare vicarious avicularia have been noted in *P. robusta* but not described (Cook, 1977). *Poricella robusta* has never been found at depths greater than 37 m.

*Distribution*

Originally described from the Mergui Archipelago (coast of Myanmar), it has subsequently been described from the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Seychelles and Sri Lanka. However, of the three Indo–Pacific species of *Poricella* noted by Cook (1977) (as *Tremogasterina*), (*P. celleporoides*, *P. robusta*, *P. spathulata*), *P. robusta* has never before been recorded in any part of the Pacific. It was found encrusting discarded wall tiles in Port Vila Harbour.

