

Article

Replacement Name for *Paracis* (Cnidaria: Octocorallia: Paramuriceidae) with a Revision and Re-Description of the Japanese Species and Description of Two New Genera and Species from the Indo-Pacific[†]

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Abstract: In this paper, the type material of all five Japanese *Paracis* species (*P. ijimai* (Kinoshita, 1909), *P. miyajimai* (Kinoshita, 1909), *P. pustulata* (Wright and Studer, 1889), *P. spinifera* (Nutting, 1912), *P. squamata* (Nutting, 1910)), two *Placogorgia* species (*P. japonica* (Nutting, 1912) and *P. placoderma* (Nutting, 1910)), *Pseudothesea foliata* Aurivillius, 1931, and the type of the genus *Paracis*, *P. orientalis* (Ridley, 1882) are re-examined and re-described. The sclerites of the different species are depicted using scanning electron microscopy. All Japanese *Paracis* and related species treated here belong to four genera: *Paracis*, Kükenthal, 1919, *Imbricacis* Matsumoto and Ofwegen gen. nov., *Pseudoparacis* Matsumoto and Ofwegen gen. nov., and *Pseudothesea* Kükenthal, 1919. A replacement name for the genus *Paracis* as *Neoacis* is introduced because there is a senior homonym. A total of eight new species are described: *Neoacis bayeri* sp. nov., *N. marianaensis* sp. nov., *N. ofwegeni* sp. nov., *Imbricacis foliata* sp. nov., *I. hawaiiensis* sp. nov., *Pseudoparacis tanseii* sp. nov., *Pseudothesea satsumaensis* sp. nov., and *Pseudothesea tokaraensis* sp. nov. *Pseudothesea foliata* Aurivillius, 1931 is synonymised with *Pseudoparacis japonica* (Nutting, 1912). We have designated a lectotype for *Paracis squamata* (Nutting, 1910), which is now revised as *Imbricacis squamata*. Keys to the genera *Neoacis*, *Imbricacis*, *Pseudoparacis*, and *Pseudothesea* are presented.

Keywords: taxonomy; synonymy; deep sea coral; cold water coral; *Discogorgia*; *Thesea*; *Euplexaura*; Plexauridae



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1. Introduction

Paracis (family Paramuriceidae, Octocorallia, Anthozoa) is a widespread genus [Kinoshita [1], Kükenthal [2,3], Nutting [4,5], Aurivillius [6]. Recently, McFadden et al. [7] resurrected the family Paramuriceidae as distinct from the family Plexauridae. Though the genera in the family Paramuriceidae and family Plexauridae are difficult to identify, the genus *Paracis* is relatively easily distinguished from other genera in these families. However, the type materials of the genus *Paracis* have yet to be re-examined and re-described in detail. Consequently, the inclusion of incorrectly identified material in molecular analyses has led to the erroneous placement of the genus in phylogenetic trees.

During CAPSTONE (a 3-year Pacific-wide field exploration campaign entitled Campaign to Address Pacific monument Science, Technology, and Ocean Needs organised by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)), where a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) dives of the NOAA Ship OKEANOS Explorer, the observation of

large tile-like sclerites on the surface of a colony during video-identification assigned these sclerites to the genus *Paracis*. The tentative video-identification resulted in ca. 190 records of *Paracis* in the database of Ocean Networks Canada SeaTube V3 (<https://data.oceannetworks.ca/ExpeditionManagement> (accessed on 17 February 2023)). However, it is yet to be confirmed whether they are true *Paracis* or not.

Bayer [8] mentioned that “Nutting (1910) described a number of East Indian species under the generic name *Placogorgia*, but most of them have been referred to other genera, notably *Discogorgia* (Kükenthal [3] p. 212)” and “Most, perhaps all, of the other species described by Nutting in his monograph of the Siboga Muriceidae belong to other genera. *Thesea sanguinea* and *T. simplex*, of which I have seen type material, are referable because of their thorn-scales (which are of the “leaf-club” type) to *Echinogorgia*, a genus which perhaps should be ranked among the *Plexauridae*.” Two of the Japanese *Paracis* are identified and described by Nutting [4,5] in the Muriceidae monograph. The true identity of *Paracis* remains unknown, a situation that has confused taxonomy for a long time.

To solve this problem, here we have tried to re-describe the type materials of all five known Japanese *Paracis* species (*Paracis ijimai* (Kinoshita, 1909), *P. miyajimai* (Kinoshita, 1909), *P. pustulata* (Wright and Studer, 1889), *P. spinifera* (Nutting, 1912), *P. squamata* (Nutting, 1910)); similar *Paracis* specimens that occur in the Indo-Pacific Ocean (one from Hawaii (*Paracis* sp.) in an unpublished dissertation work (Muzik [9]); *Paracis* species from Bikini, Marshall Islands, by Bayer [10]; a species from the Indian Ocean (*P. squamata*)); and the type species of the genus *Paracis orientalis* (Ridley, 1882), with the first detailed SEM analysis.

We also establish new genera for known Japanese, and consequently Indo-Pacific, species.

Currently, there are 21 *Paracis* species in WoRMS (World Register of Marine Species) [McFadden et al. [11]. They are *P. alba* (Thomson and Henderson, 1905), *P. alternans* (Thomson and Russell, 1910), *P. caecilia* Grasshoff, 1996, *P. ceylonensis* (Thomson and Henderson, 1905), *P. chawwa* Grasshoff, 2000, *P. dejecta* (Thomson and Russell, 1910), *P. horrida* (Thomson and Henderson, 1906), *P. ijimai* (Kinoshita, 1909), *P. indica* (Thomson and Henderson, 1905), *P. indivisa* Kükenthal, 1924, *P. miyajimai* (Kinoshita, 1909), *P. obscura* (Thomson and Russell, 1910), *P. orientalis* (Ridley, 1882), *P. pustulata* (Wright and Studer, 1889), *P. rigida* (Thomson and Simpson, 1909), *P. serrata* (Nutting, 1910), *P. solorensis* (Nutting, 1910), *P. spinifera* (Nutting, 1912), *P. spinosa* (Thomson and Henderson, 1906), *P. squamata* (Nutting, 1910), and *P. ulex* (Thomson and Simpson, 1909).

Ridley [12] first described *Acis orientalis* from Mauritius, Indian Ocean, in 1882. Nutting [4,5] described five *Paracis* species from Indo-Pacific regions, including the Hawaiian Islands (*Acis serrata* (1910), *Acis solorensis* (1910), *Acis spinifera* (1912), and *Acis squamata* (1910)). We could not examine the Japanese specimen of *P. squamata* mentioned by Nutting [5]. However, we strongly doubt Nutting’s identification, since there is confusion due to the inconsistency of assigning multiple different species as type specimens in his paper, i.e., *Imbricacis squamata* in this manuscript.

Kükenthal 1919 [2] moved all Pacific *Placogorgia* species to *Discogorgia* and designated *Discogorgia campanulifera* (Nutting, 1910) as the type of the genus, which was initially described as *Placogorgia campanulifera* by Nutting. One Japanese *Placogorgia* species exists, *Placogorgia japonica* Nutting, 1912, and Kükenthal [2] mentioned that *Placogorgia japonica* is *Discogorgia*. The genus *Discogorgia* currently includes two valid species (*D. campanulifera* (Nutting, 1910) and *D. erythraeensis* Stiasny, 1938) in WoRMS. We examined the type of *Discogorgia campanulifera* and the type of *Placogorgia japonica* Nutting, 1910, and moved *P. japonica* to *Pseudoparacis* gen. nov. Currently, there is no valid known *Discogorgia* in Japanese waters.

The genus *Pseudothesea* has seven species left in WoRMS, and the only Japanese species is *Pseudothesea foliata* Aurivillius, 1931. The type of the genus is *Pseudothesea placoderma* (Nutting, 1910), but the genus *Pseudothesea* was once synonymised with the genus *Placogorgia* Bayer, 1959, and *Pseudothesea placoderma* was revised as *Placogorgia placoderma*. Later on, Bayer (1981) [13] changed his opinion and stated that *Pseudothesea* is distinct from

Placogorgia, but he mentioned that it is difficult to distinguish from both *Pseudothesea* and *Paracis*. We agree with the reassignment of *P. placoderma* to *Pseudothesea* in WoRMS, and *P. foliata* is synonymised to *Placogorgia japonica* Nutting, 1910. *P. japonica* is revised as the new genus *Pseudoparacis* in the current manuscript.

Joe Rowlett (Field Museum of Natural History and studying fish phylogenetics at the University of Chicago) informed us that the nematode *Paracis* Railliet and Henry, 1916 is a senior homonym of the paramuriceid *Paracis* Kükenthal, 1919. We, therefore, here introduce *Neoacis* as a replacement name for *Paracis*.

2. Materials and Methods

From each specimen, a small piece of the distal part of a branch was dissolved in a solution of household bleach (4% hypochlorite) to isolate sclerites. The sclerites were washed with demineralised water, dried on a hot plate, mounted on scanning electron microscopy (SEM) stubs, and coated with Pd/Au or Pt/Pd for SEM imaging. For this, either a JEOL JSM6490LV/JSM6480LV scanning electron microscope was operated at a high vacuum at 10 kV with Quorum Q150TS Coater, or a JEOL JSM6510LA scanning electron microscope with a Quick Carbon Coater SC-701C, SANYU ELECTRON was used. The multi-focused binocular images were taken with AxioCam MRc5 and AxioVisionSE64 or LEICA MC170HD. For specific terminology, see Bayer et al. [14]. Type SEM stubs are all deposited to NBC or NMNH.

3. Key to the Genera: the following Key Best Represents the Outcome of Our Examination of Paramuriceidae with Plates or Big Spindles in the Coenenchyme

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Calyces with thornscales; | 2 |
| - Calyces not present or without thorn scales. | 6 |
| 2. Thornscales with a bifurcate process
are present; | <i>Acanthacis</i> |
| - Thornscales without bifurcate process but
simple spine. | 3 |
| 3. Tentacles with dragon wing sclerites; | 4 |
| Tentacles without dragon wing sclerites. | 5 |
| 4. Thornscales with spine longer than
basal part; | <i>Placogorgia/Paramuricea</i> |
| - Thornscales with spine shorter than or equal
to basal part. | <i>Neoacis (Paracis)/Pseudothesea</i> |
| 5. Polyps with collaret and points; | <i>Pseudoparacis</i> new genus |
| - Polyps without collaret and points. | <i>Imbricacis</i> new genus |
| 6. Coenenchymal sclerites are big plates; | <i>Scleracis/Discogorgia</i> |
| - Coenenchymal sclerites are big spindles. | 7 |
| 7. Colonies with distinct calyces; | <i>Thesea</i> |
| - Colonies without calyces or very low
elevated calyces. | <i>Euplexaura</i> |

Note—*Discogorgia erythraeensis* Grasshoff, 2000 is, according to us, a species of *Pseudoparacis*.

4. Taxonomy

Sub-phylum ANTHOZOA Ehrenberg, 1831

Class OCTOCORALLIA Haeckel, 1866

Order MALACALCYONACEA McFadden, van Ofwegen and Quattrini, 2022

Family PARAMURICEIDAE Bayer, 1956

Genus NEOACIS Matsumoto and van Ofwegen, 2023

(replacement name for PARACIS Kükenthal, 1919)

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Acis (pars) Ridley, 1882: 126; Studer, 1887: 58; Wleft and Studer, 1889: LVI, 121; Hickson, 1905: 816; Thomson and Henderson, 1905: 297; Thomson and Henderson, 1906: 77; Kinoshita, 1909: 5–15; Thomson and Simpson, 1909: 232; Nutting 1910: 41; Thomson and Russell, 1909: 154; and Nutting, 1912: 80.

Stenella (pars) Thomson and Henderson, 1906: 36.

Paracis Kükenthal, 1919: 753, 837; 1924: 154; Aurivillius, 1931: 143; Bayer, 1956b: F206

Not *Acis* Duchassaing and Michelotti, 1860: 19; 1864: 14; Kölliker, 1865: 136; Pourtales, 1867-8: 132; Duchassaing, 1870: 15; and Kükenthal, 1919: 753, 836.

Not *Acis*; Kinoshita, 1909: 5–15.

Type species. *Acis orientalis* Ridley, 1882 (Mauritius).

Diagnosis. Colonies richly branched in one plane. Polyps situated all around the end branches, on thicker branches more to one side. Coenenchyme with surface layer of big spindles, with rounded tubercles on the outside. Below these big spindles lie smaller ones. Calyces cylindrical, with thorn scales. Polyps with collaret and points, tentacles with dragon wings. Sclerites red or colourless.

Remarks. Grasshoff (1996) [15] mentioned at least eight species occur in the Indo-Pacific without mentioning any names. WoRMS [11] lists no less than 21 species.

The genus *Neoacis* (*Paracis*) and the genus *Pseudothesea* could be the same, but we are following Bayer's separation of the two. *Paracis ijimai* and *P. miyajimai* (Kinoshita, 1909) are here re-described as species of a newly described genus which also includes *P. squamata* (Nutting, 1910). *P. spinifera* (Nutting, 1912) is here re-described as a type species of another newly described genus.

We re-examined the type of *Acis orientalis* Ridley, 1882 and depict its sclerites as the original description of Ridley [12] was rather ambiguous.

The sclerites of *Neoacis* (*Paracis*) resemble those of *Discogorgia* Kükenthal, 1919, but *Paracis* differs in having dragon wing sclerites in the tentacles and spindles in the inner coenenchyme. According to the re-examination of the type of *Discogorgia campanulifera* (type of the genus *Discogorgia*) using SEM, *Discogorgia* sclerites are different from *Neoacis*. *Neoacis* has short thornscale sclerites in the polyps, but *Discogorgia* does not.

Neoacis differs from Atlantic *Scleracis*, which also has big spindles, in having thorn-scales.

The Atlantic *Acanthacis* Deichmann, 1936 also resembles *Neoacis* in having big spindles, but it has bifurcated thornscales as well.

Some species of *Euplexaura* Verrill, 1869 can also have big spindles with rounded tubercles on the outer side, but those species are sparsely branched, have no calyces and, therefore, no thornscales, and the tentacles have no dragon wings.

Finally, some species of *Thesea* also can have spindles with rounded tubercles, but that genus also has no thornscales in the calyces.

Key to the 4 N-Pacific species and type of the genus *Neoacis* (*Acis orientalis*).

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Dragon wing tentacle sclerites, polyps on three sides only, thornscales with blunt distal end; | 2 |
| - . Dragon wing tentacle sclerites, polyps on three sides/all sides of the colony, thornscales with pointed distal end. | 3 |
| 2. Thornscales with straight projection; | <i>Neoacis pustulata</i> |
| - . Thornscales with thickened middle. | <i>Neoacis marianaensis</i> sp. nov. |
| 3. Polyps on all sides of the colony, outer side of coenenchymal spindles with few rounded elevations with prickles; | <i>Neoacis bayeri</i> sp. nov. |
| - . Outer side of coenenchymal spindles completely covered by rounded elevations with prickles. | 4 |
| 4. Polyps on all sides of the colony, complex tubercles on point and tentacle sclerites; | <i>Neoacis ofwegeni</i> sp. nov. |
| - . Polyps on three sides of colony, point and tentacle sclerites with simple tubercles. | <i>Neoacis orientalis</i> . |

***Neoacis orientalis* (Ridley, 1882)**

(Figure 1A,A', Figures 2A, 3 and 4)

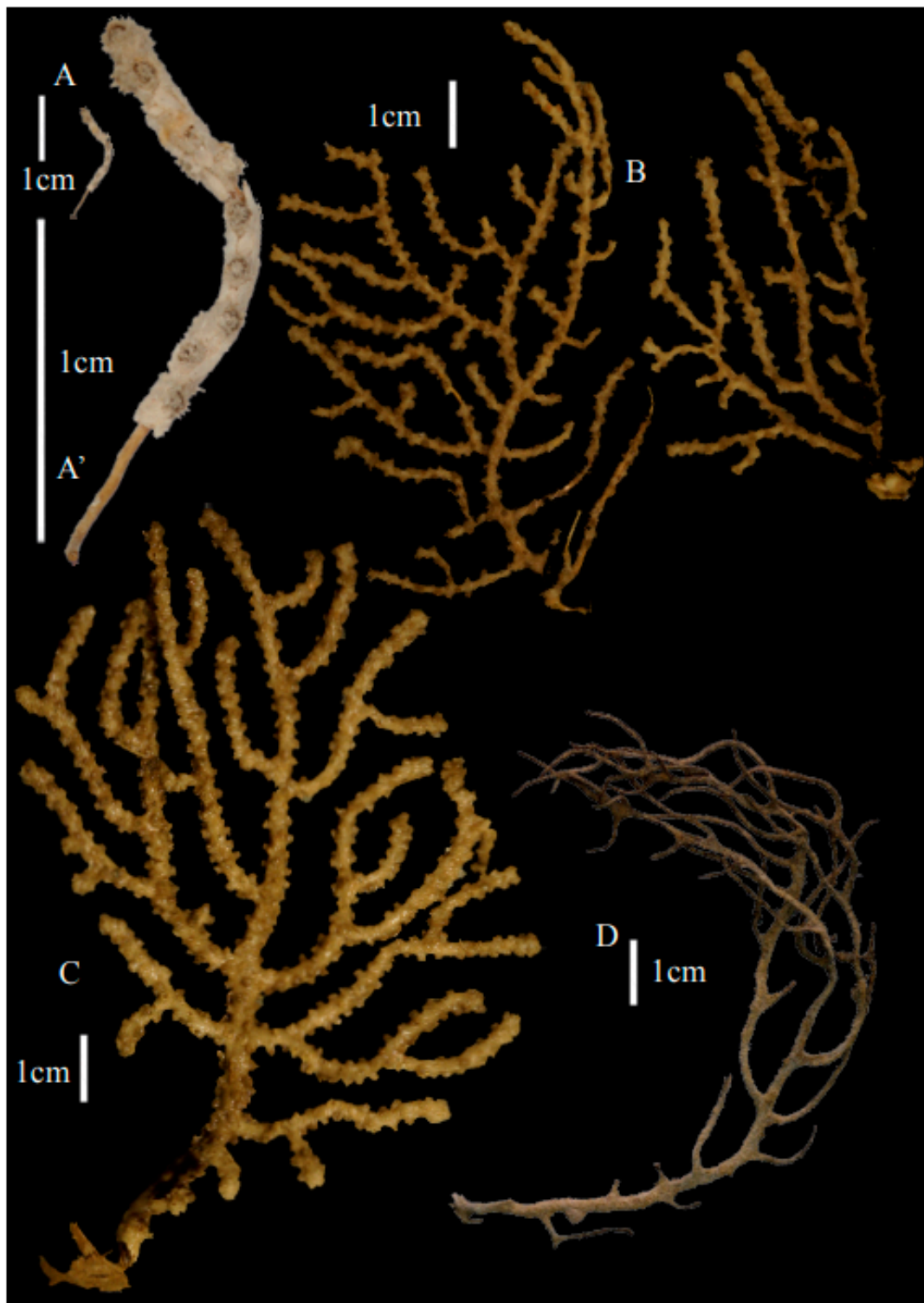


Figure 1. Colonies (A,A') *Neoacis orientalis* holotype of *Acis orientalis* BMNH1950.03.16.11, (B) *N. bayerii* sp. n. holotype USNM 44078, (C) *N. ofwegeni* sp. n. holotype USNM49911, (D) *N. ofwegeni* sp. n. paratype SMBL-Cni1362.

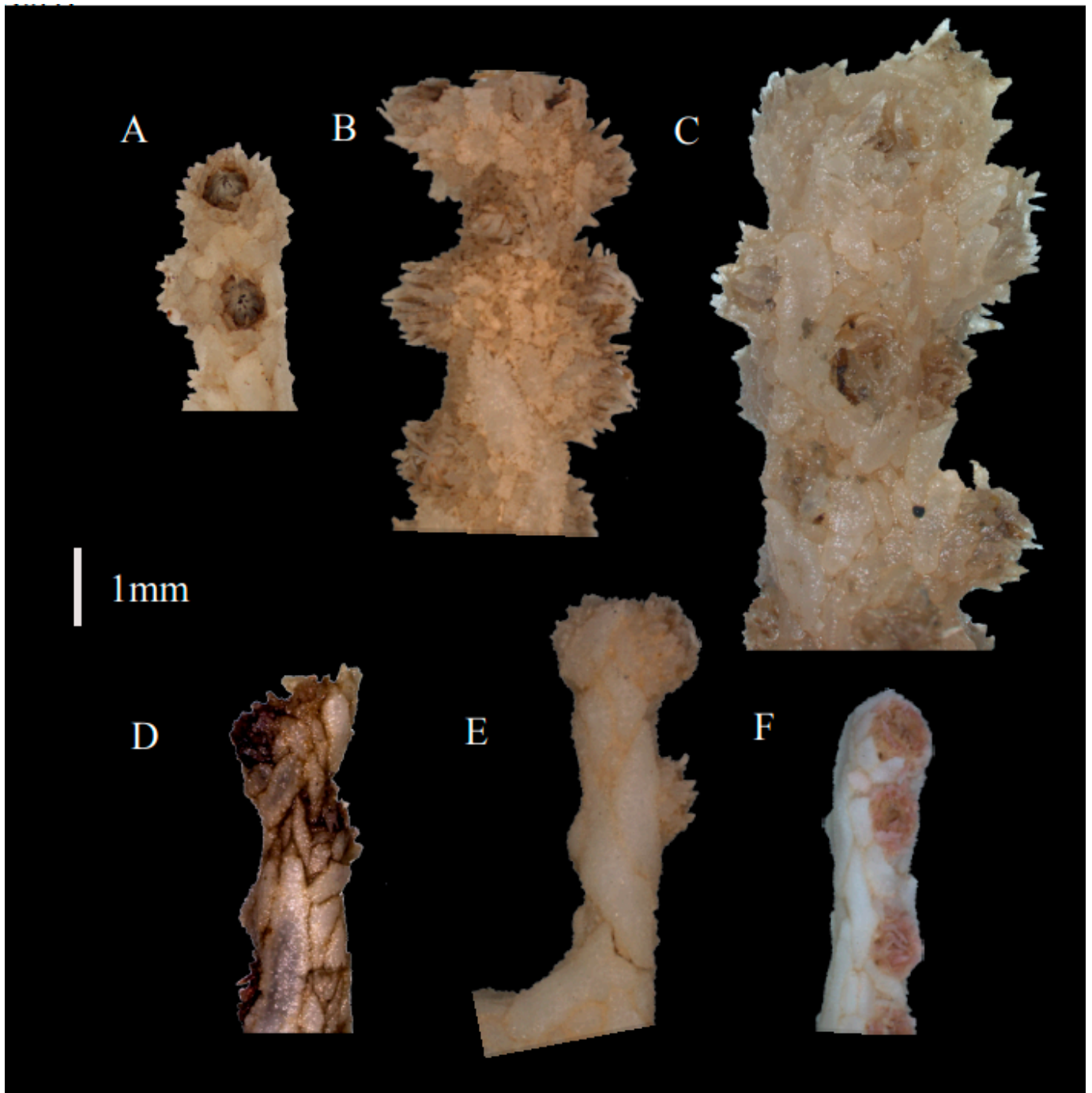


Figure 2. Polyps (A) *Neoacis orientalis* holotype of *Acis orientalis* BMNH1950.03.16.11, (B) *Neoacis bayeri* sp. n. holotype USNM 44078, (C) *Neoacis ofwegeni* sp. n. holotype USNM49911, (D) *Neoacis pustulata* holotype of *Acis pustulata* BMNH1889.5.27.140, (E) *Neoacis pustulata* UMUTZ-G253, (F) *Neoacis marianaensis* sp. n. holotype USNM1439577.

Acis orientalis Ridley, 1882: 126, pl. 5 Figures 1–6 (Mauritius).

Paracis orientalis; Kükenthal, 1924: 156; WoRMS, 2023.

NOT *Paracis orientalis*; Bayer, 1949: 200, Figures 1e and 5a–e, pl. 1 Figure 4 (Bikini) (USNM 44078).

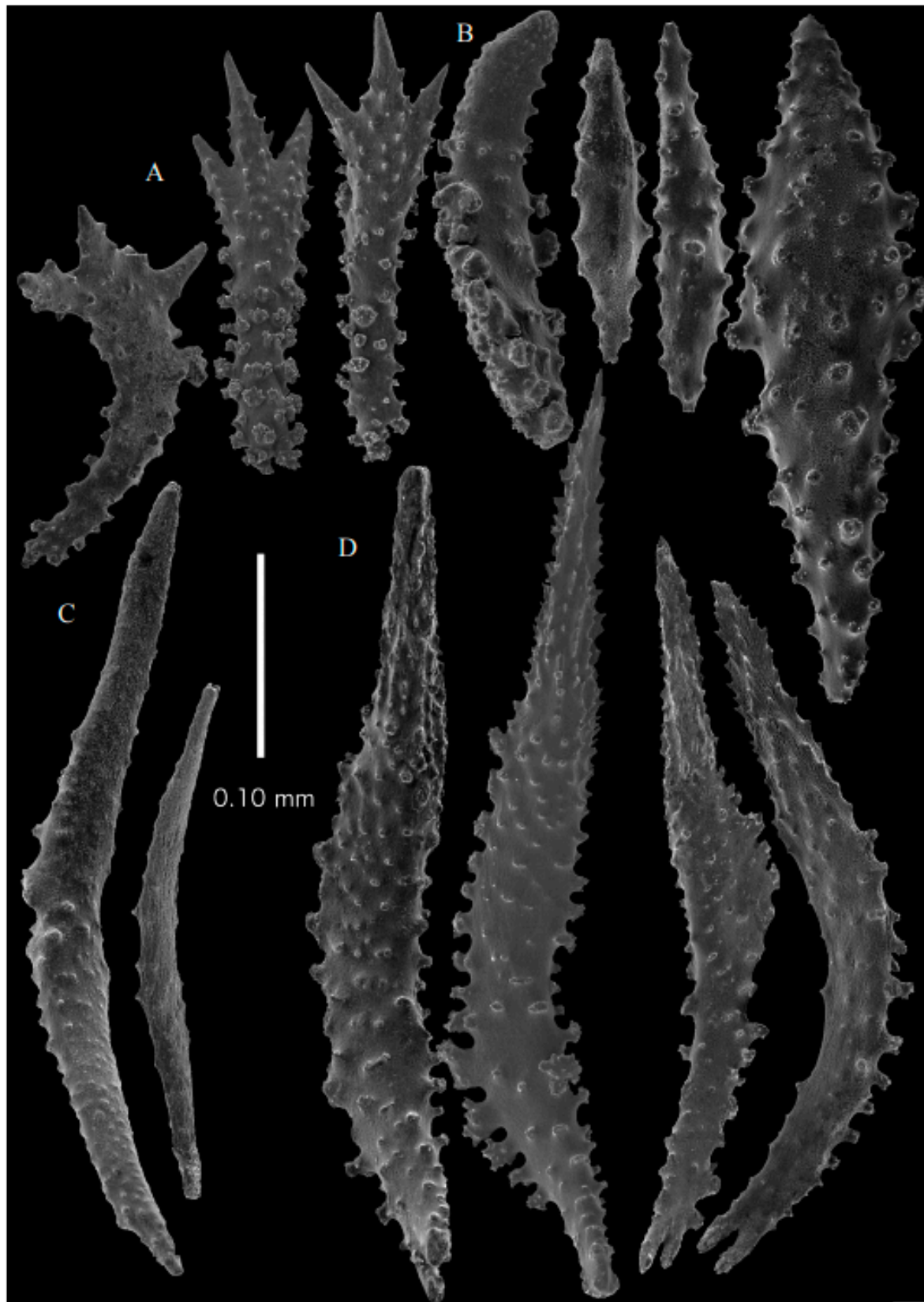


Figure 3. *Neoacis orientalis* holotype of *Acis orientalis* BMNH1950.03.16.11: (A) tentacle sclerites (dragon wings), (B) interior coenenchymal spindles, (C) collaret spindles, (D) point sclerites.

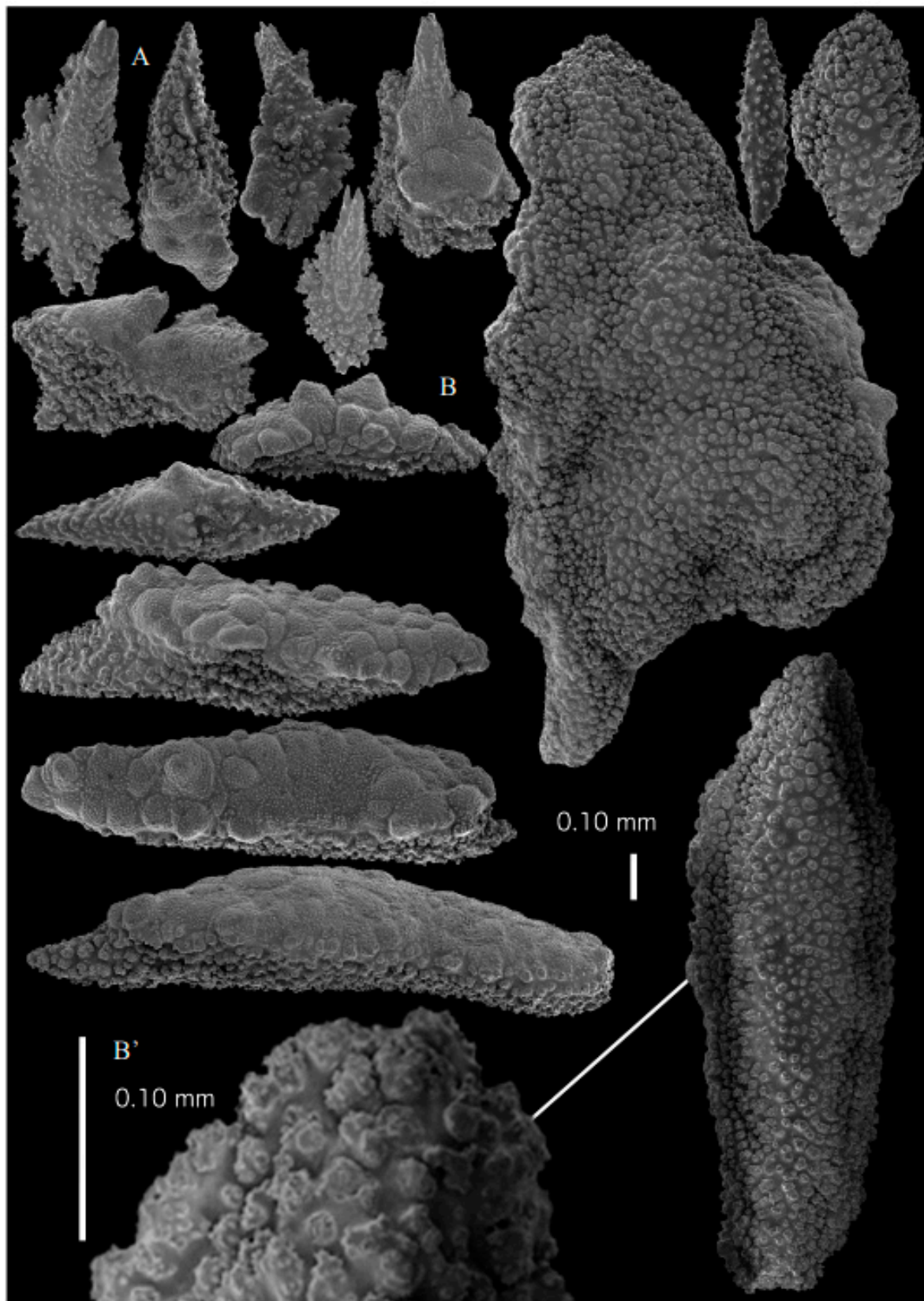


Figure 4. *Neoacis orientalis* holotype of *Acis orientalis* BMNH1950.03.16.11: (A) calycular thornscales, (B,B') coenenchyme spindles.

Material examined. Holotype **BMNH1950.03.16.11**, Mauritius, coll. Prof. S. G. Hickson, dry.

Re-description. Only a fragment of the branch (1.9 cm length) remained (Figure 1A,A'), but the original specimen was part of a sparsely branched colony which was 9 cm high and 7 cm wide (Ridley pl. 5 Figure 1 [12]). The branches were about 1–1.4 mm wide. Calyces conical, 1–1.7 mm apart, present on three sides of the colony, leaving one side free of polyps. Polyps with collaret and points (Figure 2A). Point sclerites are bent spindles (Figure 3D), up to 0.5 mm long, with a lower part with small side branches and simple tubercles, and a spiny upper part. Collaret with almost smooth bent spindles (Figure 3C), up to 0.4 mm long, with only some simple tubercles in the middle. Tentacles with dragon wing scales, sometimes torch-shaped (Figure 3A), up to 0.2 mm long, with simple tubercles. Calyces with thornscales (Figure 4A) 0.2–0.6 mm long. Lower part of these thornscales branched, with simple and complex tubercles and rounded elevations with prickles, upper part with simple tubercles and spines. Coenenchyme with big spindles, up to 1.5 mm long (Figure 4B,B'). The outer side of these sclerites with rounded elevations with prickles, the inner side with simple and complex tubercles. Interior with smaller spindles, up to 0.4 mm long, with simple tubercles (Figure 3B).

Colour. Colony white, anthocodial sclerites colourless, coenenchymal sclerites white.

Distribution. Only recorded from type locality.

Remarks. Ridley's Figures 5 and 6 [12] made Bayer [10] assume the coenenchymal sclerites had spines; consequently, he identified a specimen from Bikini as this species. This mistake was never corrected, leading to an erroneous part in Bayer's key to the genera:

In his footnote 15 in the key, Bayer [13] stated, "Although I have previously synonymised this genus (*Pseudothesea*) with *Placogorgia* (Bayer, 1959), it seems to be generically distinct, at least from the type-species of that genus. It may, however, be impossible to distinguish it from *Paracis*, from which it was distinguished by Kükenthal [3] on the basis of having sclerites of very diverse form, including strongly spinose, unilateral thornscales, but these occur in both *Pseudothesea* and *Paracis*" [*Neoacis* in this manuscript]. Later on (1996), Grasshoff [15] did examine the type of *P. orientalis* to describe his *P. caecilia* from New Caledonia but did not provide any images of the coenenchymal sclerites of *P. orientalis*. He mentioned calycular thornscales and tentacular dragon wing sclerites but did not say anything about the coenenchymal sclerites. Here, we finally present the coenenchymal sclerites of *Neoacis orientalis* (type of the genus *Paracis*), some of which resemble Ridley's Figures 5 and 6 [12], but it is obvious spines are not present but only rounded elevations covered with prickles.

***Neoacis bayeri* sp. nov**

(Figure 1B, Figure 2B', Figures 5 and 6)

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:D0B57ED9-1BDC-435C-91C3-C6685A085BB3

NOT *Paracis orientalis*; Bayer, 1949: 200, Figures 1e and 5a–e, pl. 1 Figure 4 (Bikini) (USNM 44078).

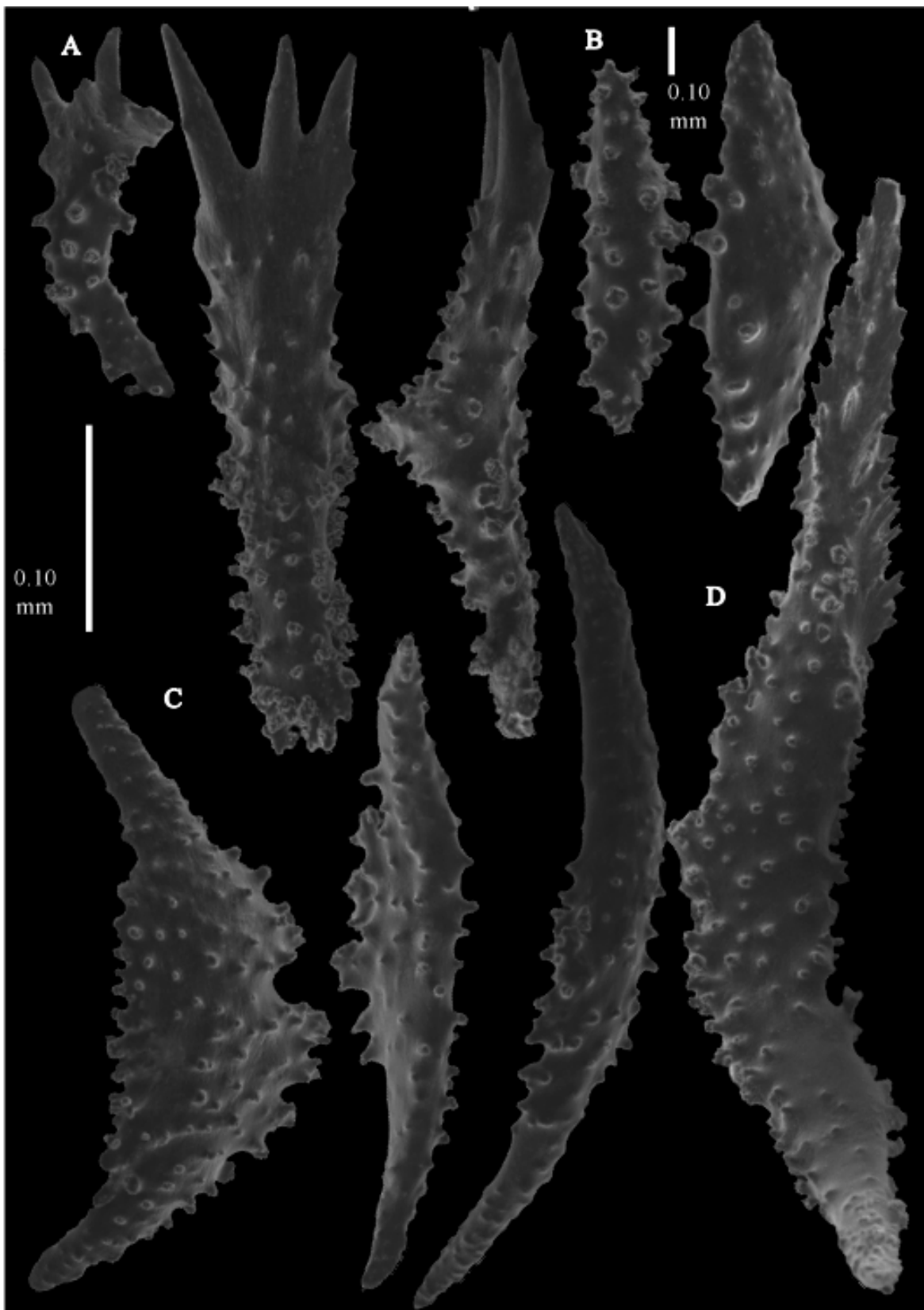


Figure 5. *Neocis bayeri* n. sp. holotype USNM 44078: (A) tentacle sclerites (dragon wings), (B) interior coenenchymal spindles, (C) collaret spindles, (D) point sclerites.

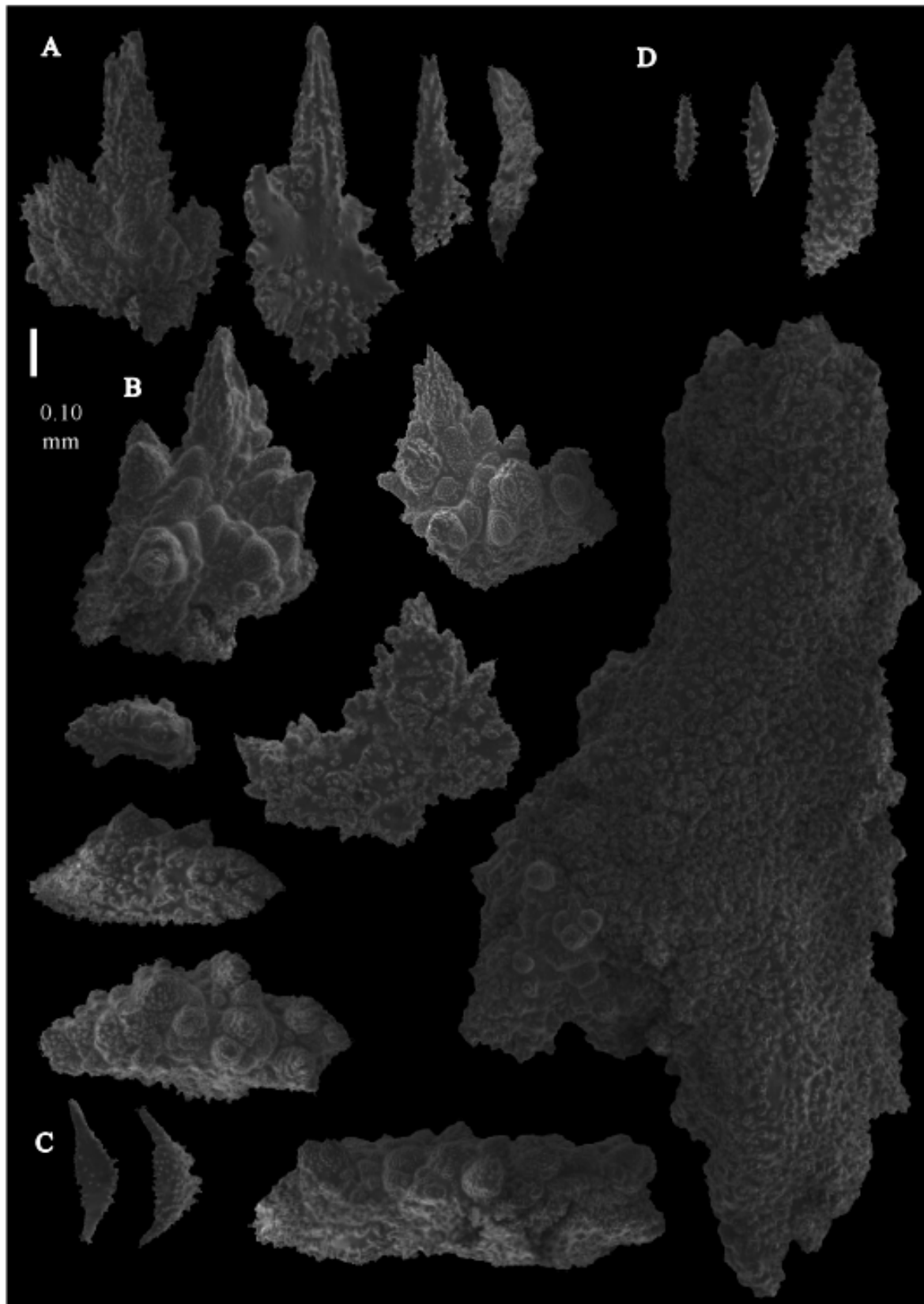


Figure 6. *Neocais bayeri* n. sp. holotype USNM 44078: (A) calycular thornscales, (B) coenenchyme spindles, (C) collaret spindles, (D) interior coenenchymal spindles.

Material examined. Holotype USNM 44078, previously identified by Bayer [10] as *Paracis orientalis*. Holotype Off Enyu Pass, Bikini Atoll, Ralik Chain, Marshall Islands, North Pacific Ocean, 11°4731' N, 165°526' E, 213–221 m, Bikini Scientific Resurvey, 1947, st. 30, coll. Russell, R. D., 22 August 1947.

Description. Holotype 8.5 cm high and 7.7 cm wide (Figure 2B). Two stems arose from the spreading, encrusting base covering a branch of coral, but the two stems are separated now. Lateral branches arise at intervals of 10–15 mm along the main stem. Branches about 1.5–2 mm wide. Longest branch length 3.6 cm. Calyces conical, 1–3 mm apart, present all around the branches, partly two sides. Polyps with collaret and points (Figure 3B). Point sclerites are bent spindles (Figure 5D), up to 0.7 mm long, with simple tubercles and spiny upper part. Collaret with bent spindles (Figures 5C and 6C), up to 0.6 mm long, with simple tubercles, both ends less tuberculate. Tentacles with dragon wing scales (Figure 5A), up to 0.35 mm long, with simple tubercles. Calyces with thornscales (Figure 6A), 0.45–0.65 mm long. Lower part of these thornscales branched, with simple, complex, and rounded tubercles, upper part with tuberculate spines. Coenenchyme with big spindles, up to 1.5 mm long (Figure 6B). The outer side of these sclerites with rounded tubercles, often placed on low protuberances, the inner side with simple and complex tubercles. Interior with smaller spindles, up to 0.4 mm long, with simple tubercles (Figures 5B and 6D).

Colour. Colony brown-grey with darker calyces. Anthocodial sclerites colourless, coenenchymal sclerites white.

Distribution. Only known from the type locality.

Etymology. Named in honour of Dr. Ted Bayer, who first described this material as *Paracis orientalis* in 1949 [10].

Remarks. This species very much resembles *Paracis orientalis* but differs in having coenenchymal spindles with fewer rounded elevations with prickles. Colony differs in having the polyps on all sides of the branches instead of three sides in *P. orientalis*.

It is noteworthy that the material we here re-describe looks different from the description of Bayer [10]. He only depicted sclerites with spines ([10] Figure 5C) and not a single spindle with rounded elevations covered with prickles ([10] Figure 6V). However, in his description he mentioned “coenenchyme covered with irregular elongate plates very closely fitted as in mosaic. These ornamented with low protuberances, quite spinose near the calyces.” These clearly are the spindles with rounded elevations covered with prickles we found.

Neoacis marianaensis sp. nov.

(Figures 2F, 7A, 8 and 9)

Material examined. Holotype, USNM1439577, 54 Fathom Bank, leeward coast, Rota Island, Northern Mariana Islands, North Pacific Ocean, 14.2067' N, 145.18' E, depth 98–164 m, R/V *Panglou Oro*, st. 11, coll. Grigg, R. W.; Eldredge, L. G., 25 October 1973.

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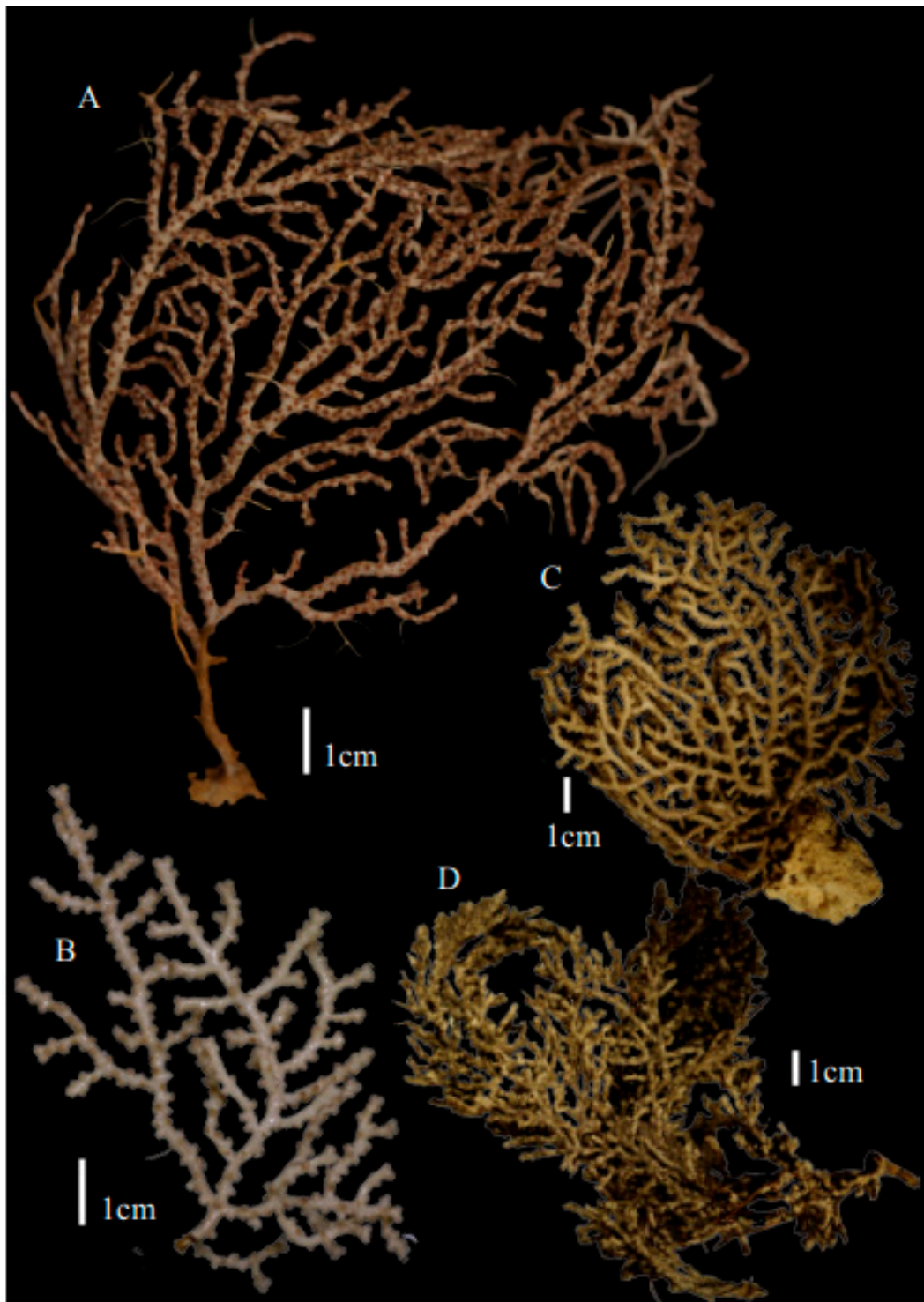


Figure 7. Colonies: (A) *Neoacis marianaensis* n. sp. holotype USNM1439577, (B) *Imbricacis ijimai* holotype of *Acis ijimai* UMUTZ-G097, (C) *I. ijimai* USNM44077, (D) *I. ijimai* USNM49909.

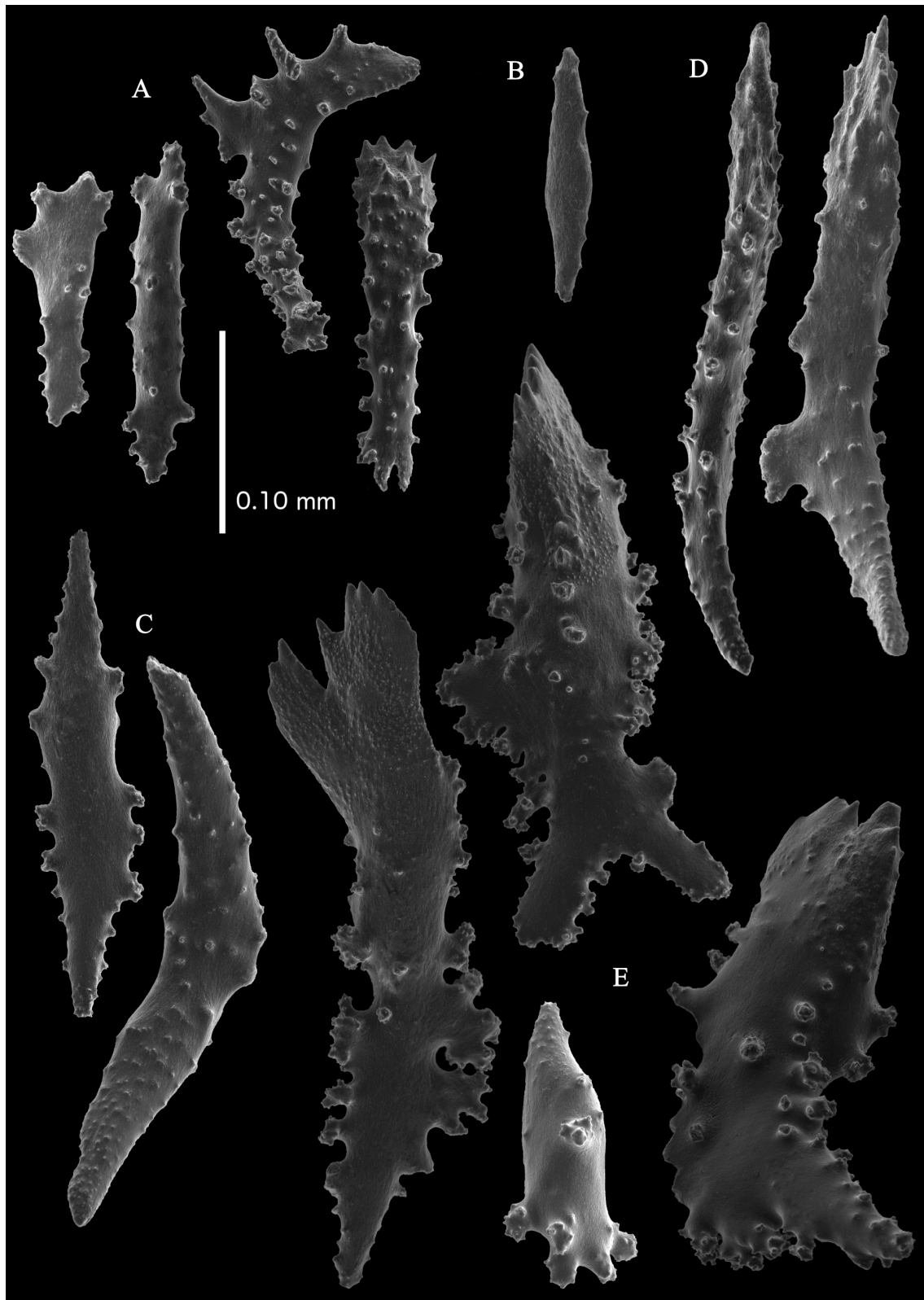


Figure 8. *Neocais marianaensis* n. sp. holotype USNM1439577: (A) tentacle dragon wing sclerites, (B) interior spindle, (C) collaret spindles of polyps, (D) point sclerites of polyps, (E) thornscales of calyces.

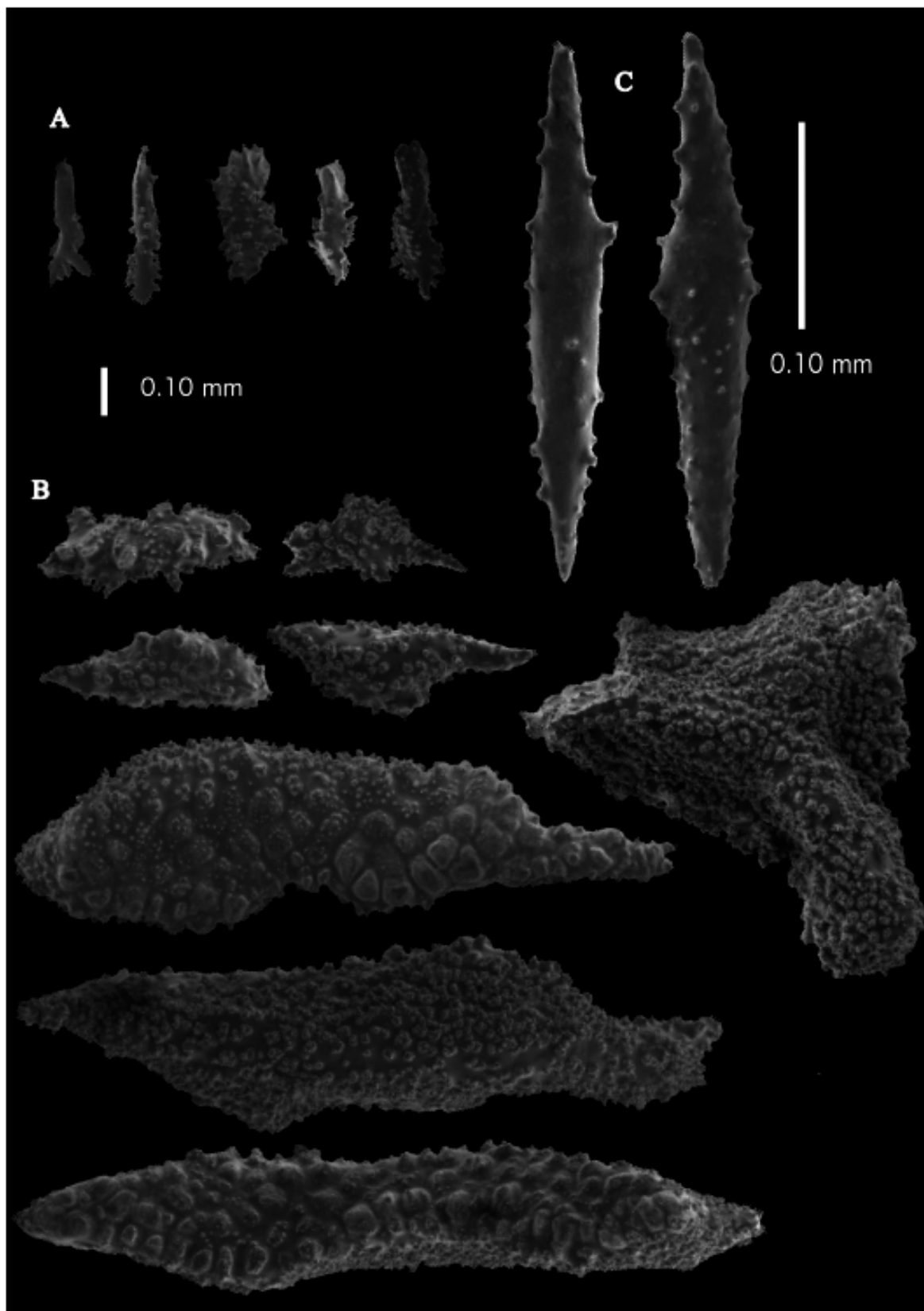


Figure 9. *Neocis marianaensis* n. sp. holotype USNM1439577: (A) thornscales of calyces, (B) coenenchyme spindles, (C) interior spindles.

Description. Holotype colony (USNM1439577) 13.5 cm high and 10.6 cm wide (Figure 7A). Stem and branches flattened in the plane of branching. Branches about 0.93–3.42 mm wide. Calyces conical, 1.12–2.04 mm apart, present on three sides of the branches. Polyps with collaret and points (Figure 2F). Point sclerites are bent spindles (Figure 8D), up to 0.31 mm long, with simple tubercles and spiny upper part. Collaret with bent spindles (Figure 8C), up to 0.27 mm long, with simple tubercles and both ends less tuberculate. Tentacles with dragon wing scales, but more torch-shaped (Figure 8A), up to 0.17 mm long, with simple tubercles. Calyces with thornscales (Figures 8E and 9A), up to 0.34 mm long. Lower part of these thornscales branched, with simple, complex, and rounded tubercles, upper part with one or two blunt spreading spines, and median part of these spines thickened. Coenenchyme with big spindles, up to 1.60 mm long (Figure 8B). These sclerites with small spines on the outer surface and complex tubercles, often placed on low protuberances. Interior with smaller spindles, up to 0.26 mm long, with sparse simple tubercles (Figures 8B and 9C).

Colour. Colony white with reddish-pink polyps. Anthocodial sclerites reddish-pink, coenenchymal sclerites white.

Distribution. The species is only known from the Northern Mariana Islands, North Pacific Ocean.

Etymology. The species is named after its type locality, Northern Mariana Islands.

Remarks. This species mostly looks like Japanese *Neoacis pustulata* to the naked eye and has large spindles in the coenenchyme with dragon wing sclerites in the tentacles, but differs from that species in having thornscales with projections thickened in the median part like *Placogorgia coronata*.

Neoacis ofwegeni Matsumoto, sp. nov.

(Figure 1C,D, Figures 2C and 10, Figures 11–13).

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:D2316D74-E802-4346-BAEF-C7C7D9E82F24

Material examined. Holotype USNM49911 previously identified as *Paracis* sp. *Alb-USFC/A3716*, Ose Zaki, Suruga Bay, Honshu Island, Shizuoka Pref. Japan, Northwest Pacific, depth 119–229 m, Trawl–Tanner Beam, 8 ft, 11 May 1900, paratype SMBL-Cni1362 previously identified as *Paracis squamata*, off Kirime-zaki cape, depth 30–50 m, Sakai fish port, Minabe, Wakayama, Japan, 21 Mar. 1969, (probably collected by fisherman's boat), dry.

Description. Holotype (USNM49911) colony 11.8 cm high and 8.9 cm wide (Figure 1C). Lateral branches arise at intervals of 9.5–21.3 mm along the main stem. Branches about 2.38–3.77 mm wide. Calyces conical, 1.40–2.86 mm apart, present all around the branches. Polyps with collaret and points (Figure 2C). Point sclerites are bent spindles (Figure 10C,C'), up to 0.78 mm long, with complex tubercles and spiny upper part. Collaret with bent spindles (Figure 10D,D'), up to 0.59 mm long, with simple tubercles, both ends less tuberculate. Tentacles with dragon wing scales (Figure 10A), up to 0.34 mm long, with complex tubercles. Calyces with thornscales (Figure 11A), 0.50–0.59 mm long. Lower part of these thornscales branched, with simple, complex, and rounded tubercles, upper part with tuberculate spines. Coenenchyme with big spindles, up to 1.67 mm long (Figure 11C). The outer side of these sclerites with rounded tubercles, often placed on low protuberances, the inner side with simple and complex tubercles. Interior with smaller spindles, up to 0.76 mm long, with simple tubercles (Figure 11B).

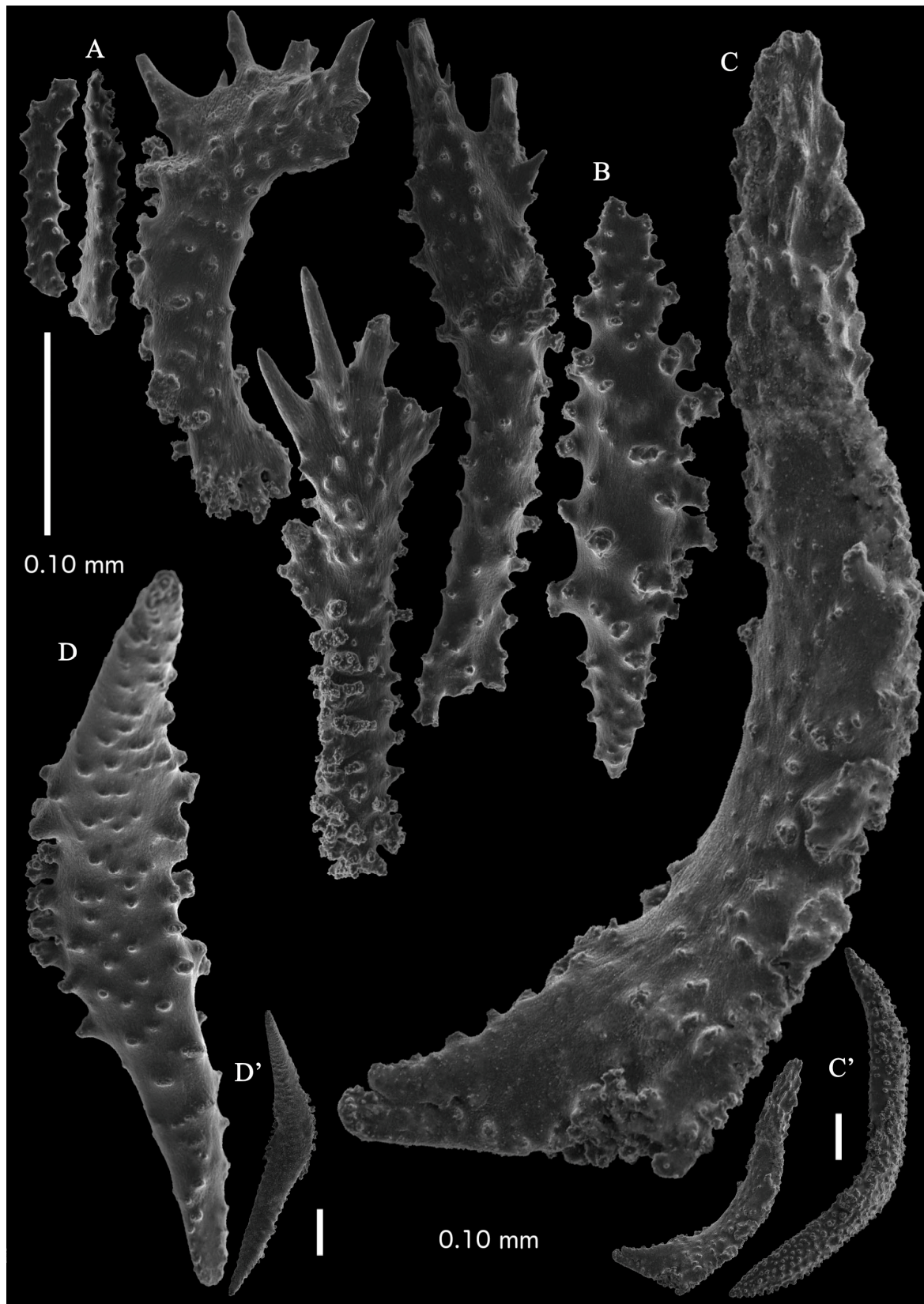


Figure 10. *Neoacis ofwegeni* n. sp. holotype USNM49911: (A) tentacle sclerites (dragon wing scales), (B) interior coenenchymal spindles, (C,C') point sclerites, (D,D') collaret spindles.

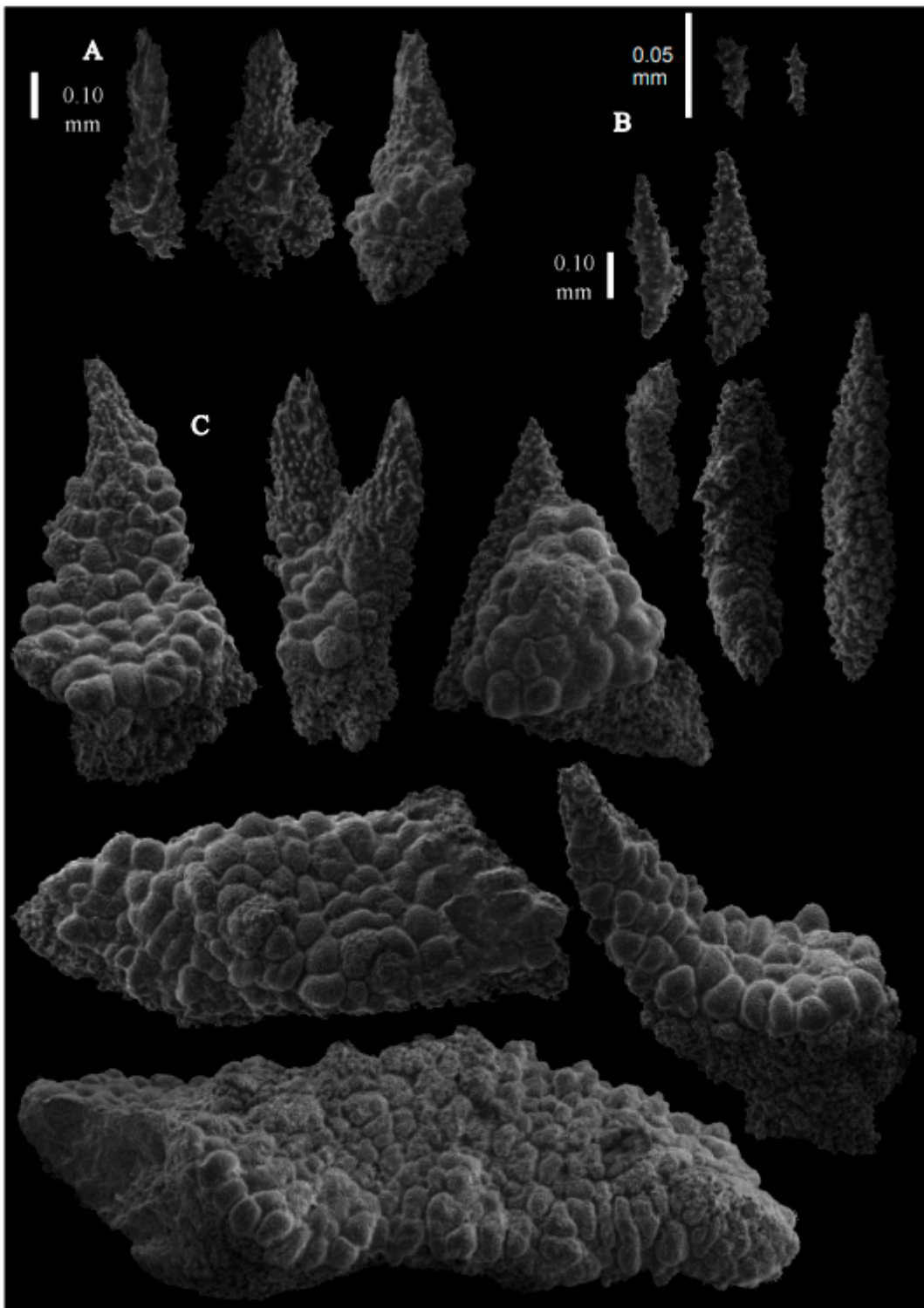


Figure 11. *Neocis ofwegeni* n. sp. holotype USNM49911: (A) calycular thornscales, (B) interior coenenchymal spindles, (C) coenenchyme spindles.

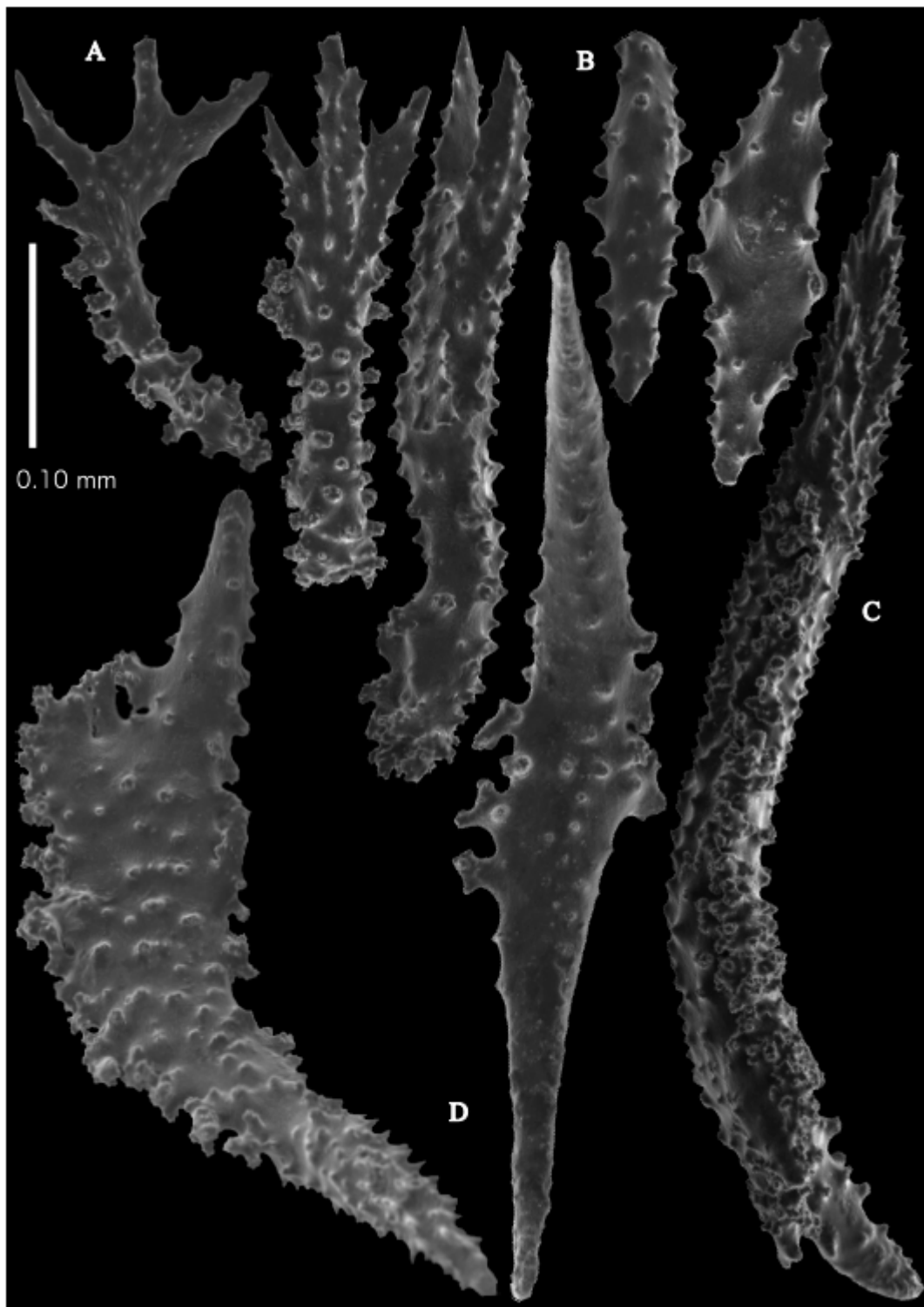


Figure 12. *Neoacis ofwegeni* n. sp. paratype SMBL-Cni1362: (A) tentacle sclerites (dragon wing scales), (B) interior coenenchymal spindles, (C) point sclerites, (D) collaret spindles.

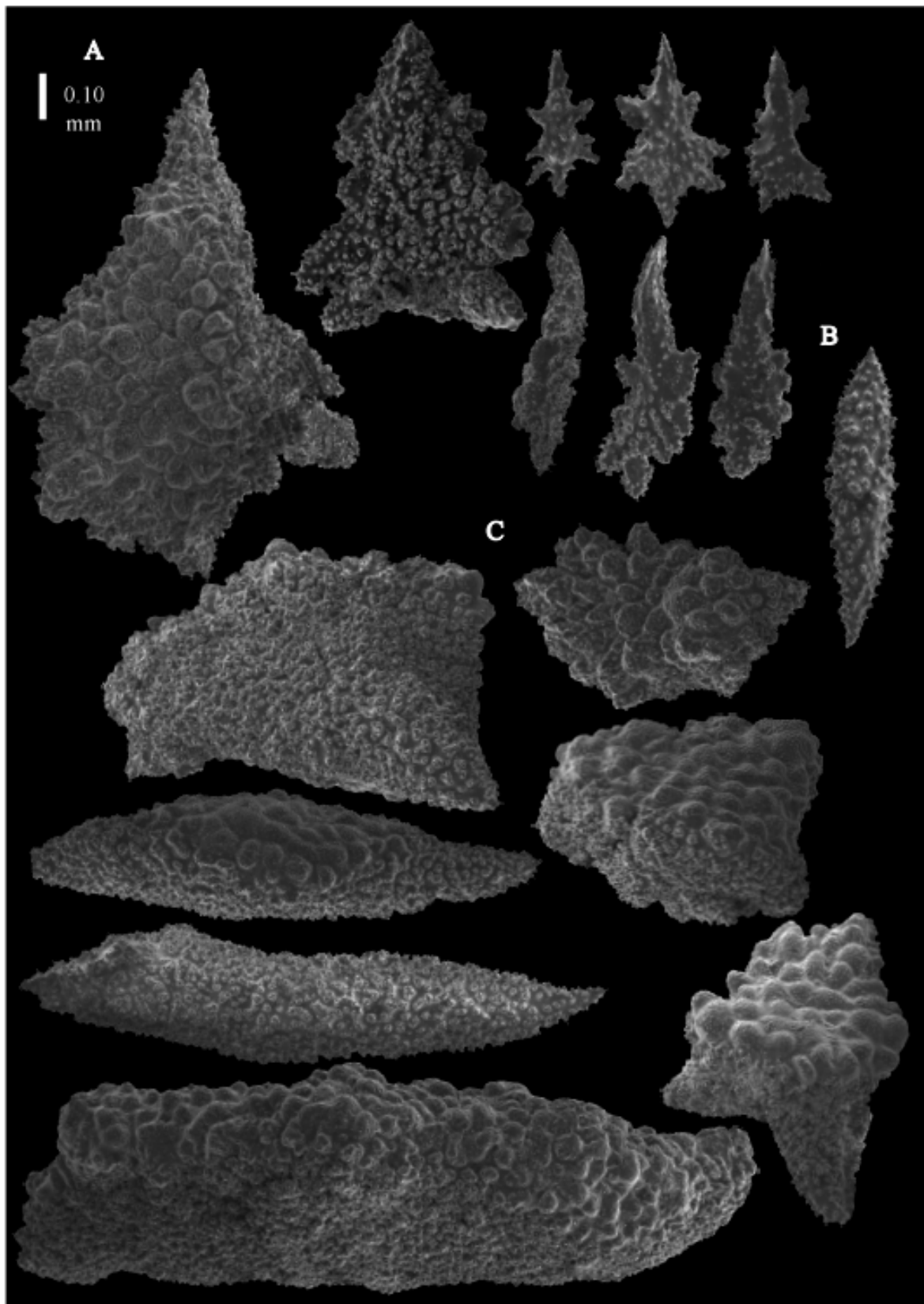


Figure 13. *Neocis ofwegeni* n. sp. paratype SMBL-Cni1362: (A) calycular thornscales, (B) interior coenenchymal spindles, (C) coenenchyme spindles.

Colour. Colony brown-grey with darker calyces. Anthocodial sclerites colourless, coenenchymal sclerites white (Figure 1C).

Variation. The paratype (SMBL-Cni1362) colony shape and branching looks a bit different from the holotype because the specimen has been stored under insufficient condition and is not enough to describe the detail of the polyps (Figure 1D). Sclerites are very much like the holotype (Figures 12 and 13).

Distribution. Suruga Bay, off Kii Peninsula (Pacific side of Japanese main island). The other known Japanese *Neoacis* species (*N. pustulata*) has a wider distribution than *N. ofwegeni* sp. nov. *N. orientalis* and *N. bayerii* sp. nov. have never been found in Japan.

Etymology. Named in honour of Dr. Leen P. van Ofwegen, who first recognised this species as new to science.

Remarks. This species differs from *Neoacis orientalis* and *N. bayeri* sp. nov. (USNM44078) in having much more complex tubercles on point and tentacle sclerites. The coenenchymal spindles mostly resemble those of *N. orientalis*.

***Neoacis pustulata* (Wright and Studer, 1889)**

(Figure 2D,E, Figure 14A–C and Figure 15, Figure 16, Figure 17, and Figure 18)

Acis pustulata Wright and Studer, 1889: 122, pl. 24 Figure 1-1a, pl. 27 Figure 6 (Sagami Bay); Kinoshi-ta 1909: 5, pl. 1 Figure 2, pl. 2 Figures 10–12 (Uji island); Thomson and Simpson, 1909: 234, pl. 1 Figure 6, 7, pl. 9 Figure 5a, 5b.

Paracis pustulata Kükenthal 1924: 157, Figures 106, 107.

Material examined. Holotype, **BMNH1889.5.27.140** *Acis pustulata*, Hyalonema-ground (Nishi-no yodomi), south of Japan, 35°11' N 139°28' E, *H.M.S. Challenger* st. 232, 345 fms, 12 May 1875. Other materials, **UMUTZ-G108**, *Acis pustulata*, Coral ground, Uji Is.: Satsuma (Kagoshima Pref.), depth 146–164 m (80–90 fathoms), det. and coll. Kumao Kinoshita, June, 1908, red; **UMUTZ-G110**, *Acis pustulata*, Coral ground, Uji Is.: Satsuma (Kagoshima Pref.), depth 146–164 m (80–90 fathoms), det. and coll. Kumao Kinoshita, late May, 1908, red; **UMUTZ-G253 (=G110b)**, same data as UMUTZ-G110, figured colony, Kinoshita, 1909, white; **UMUTZ-G201**, *Acis pustulata*, Chikurase (Tsukurase?) Kagoshima Pref. depth 128 m (70 fathoms), Satsuma expedition, coll. M. Miyajima, 14 July 1899, Coral net, white; **USNM50126** *Acis pustulata*, subsampled from UMUTZ-G253, white and UMUTZ-G110, red; previously unidentified material: **ZMUC-ANT706**, Northwest Pacific, 32°15' N, 128°20' E, depth 180 m (100 fms), coll. Kapt. Hans Christiansen, 17 April 1926, white; **AKM418**, Watari-se bank, off Izu Isls., Japan, Northwest Pacific, 34°02.8620' N, 138°54.8090' E–34°02.9190' N, 138°54.6810' E, depth 101.1–106.2 m, *R/V Tansei-maru* cruise, KT04-06, st. WS-2, coll. A.K. Matsumoto, 30 April 2004, white; **AKM569**, Off Takato, Tachibana-ura, Otsuki, Tosa, Kouchi pref., Japan, Northwest Pacific, 132°48.06' E, 32°43.08' N–132°47.68' E, 32°43.12' N, depth 84.75–83.1 m, *F/B Kiryo-maru*, st. 3, Coral-net, coll. A. K. Matsumoto, 7 October 2004, red; **AKM801**, Off Takarajima Is., Tokara Isls., Japan, East China Sea, 29°14.6410 N, 129°07.8392 E, depth 156 m, *R/V Tansei-maru*, KT07-2 cruise, st.DT5 (D8), coll. Yokose, 2 March 2007, white; **AKM805**, Off Takarajima Is., Tokara Isls., Japan, East China Sea, 29°14.6410 N, 129°07.8392 E, depth 156 m, *R/V Tansei-maru* cruise, KT07-2, st.DT5 (D8), coll. Yokose, 2 March 2007, white; **AKM1390**, West of Chichijima Is. Ogasawara Isls., Japan, 142°07.412' E, 27°01.395' N–142°07.467' E, 27°01.360' N, depth 139–144 m, *R/V Tansei-maru* cruise KT09-2, st.TW01-01, coll. A.K. Matsumoto, 19 March 2009; **AKM1466**, West of Chichijima Is. Ogasawara Isls. Japan, 142°07.466' E–142°07.489' E, 27°01.371' N–27°01.344' N, depth 135–136 m, *R/V Tansei-maru* cruise, KT09-02, st.TW01-02, 19 March 2009, coll. A.K. Matsumoto, white; **AKM1499**, West of Chichijima Is. Ogasawara Isls. Japan, 142°07.166' E–142°07.251' E, 27°02.942' N–27°02.948' N, depth 138–136 m, *R/V Tansei-maru* cruise, KT09-02, st. TW02-04, coll. A.K. Matsumoto, 19 March 2009, white.

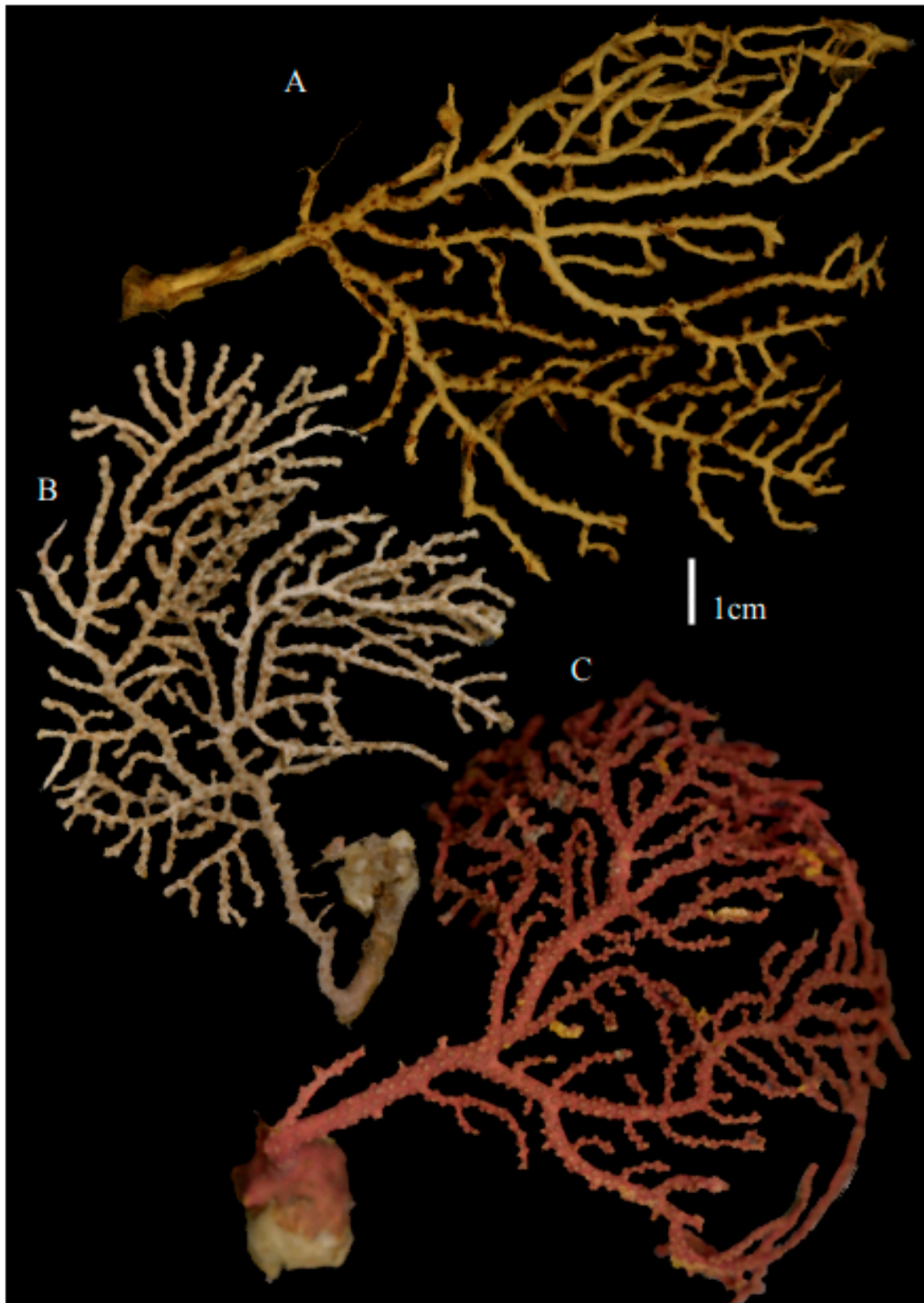


Figure 14. Colonies: (A) *Neoacis pustulata* holotype of *Acis pustulata* BMNH1889.5.27.140, (B) *N. pustulata* UMUTZ-G253, figured colony in Kinoshita [1], (C) *N. pustulata* UMUTZ-G110.

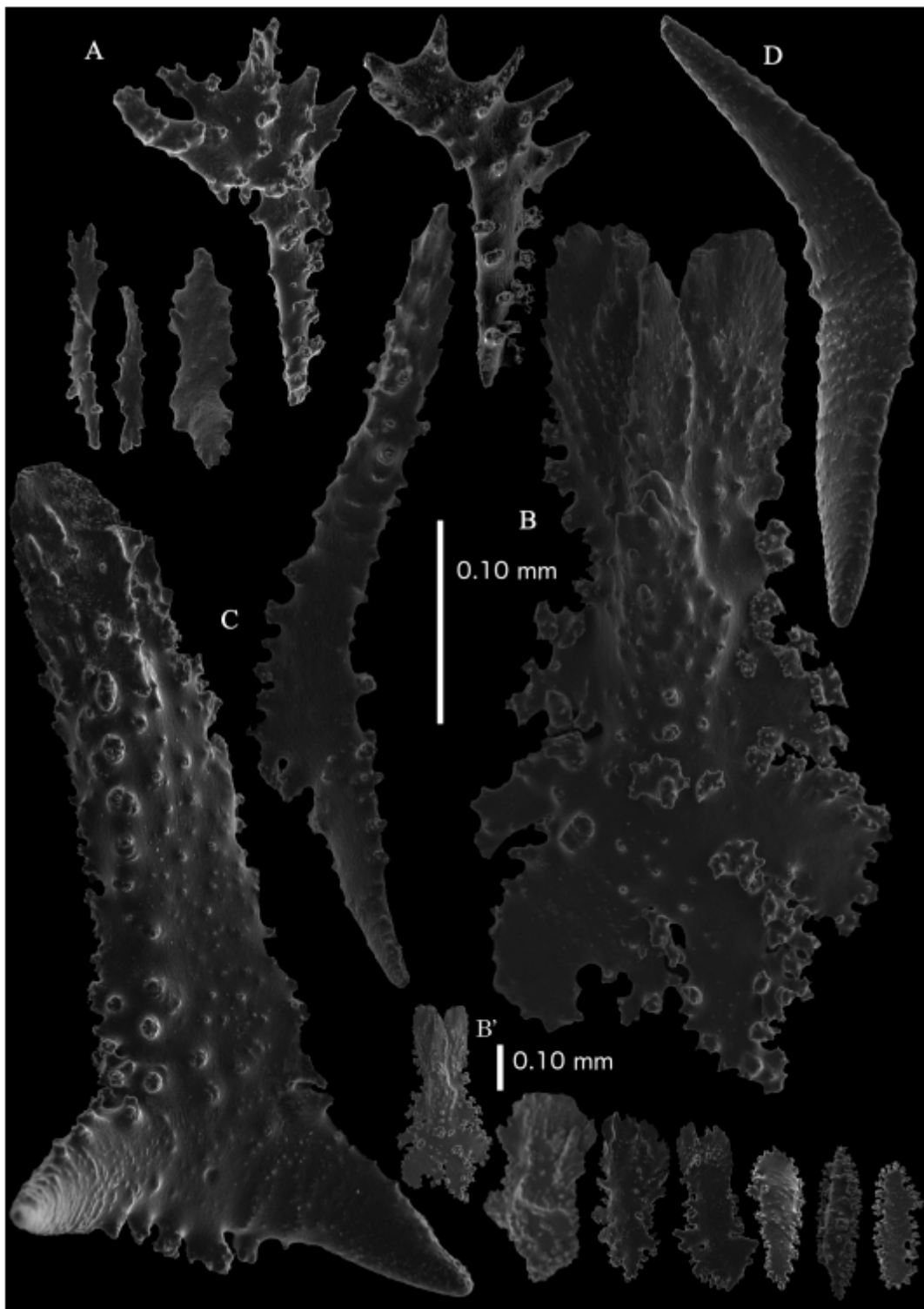


Figure 15. *Neocis pustulata* holotype of *Acis pustulata* BMNH1889.5.27.140: (A) tentacle sclerites (dragon wing scales), (B,B') calycular thorn scales, (C) point sclerites, (D) collaret spindles.

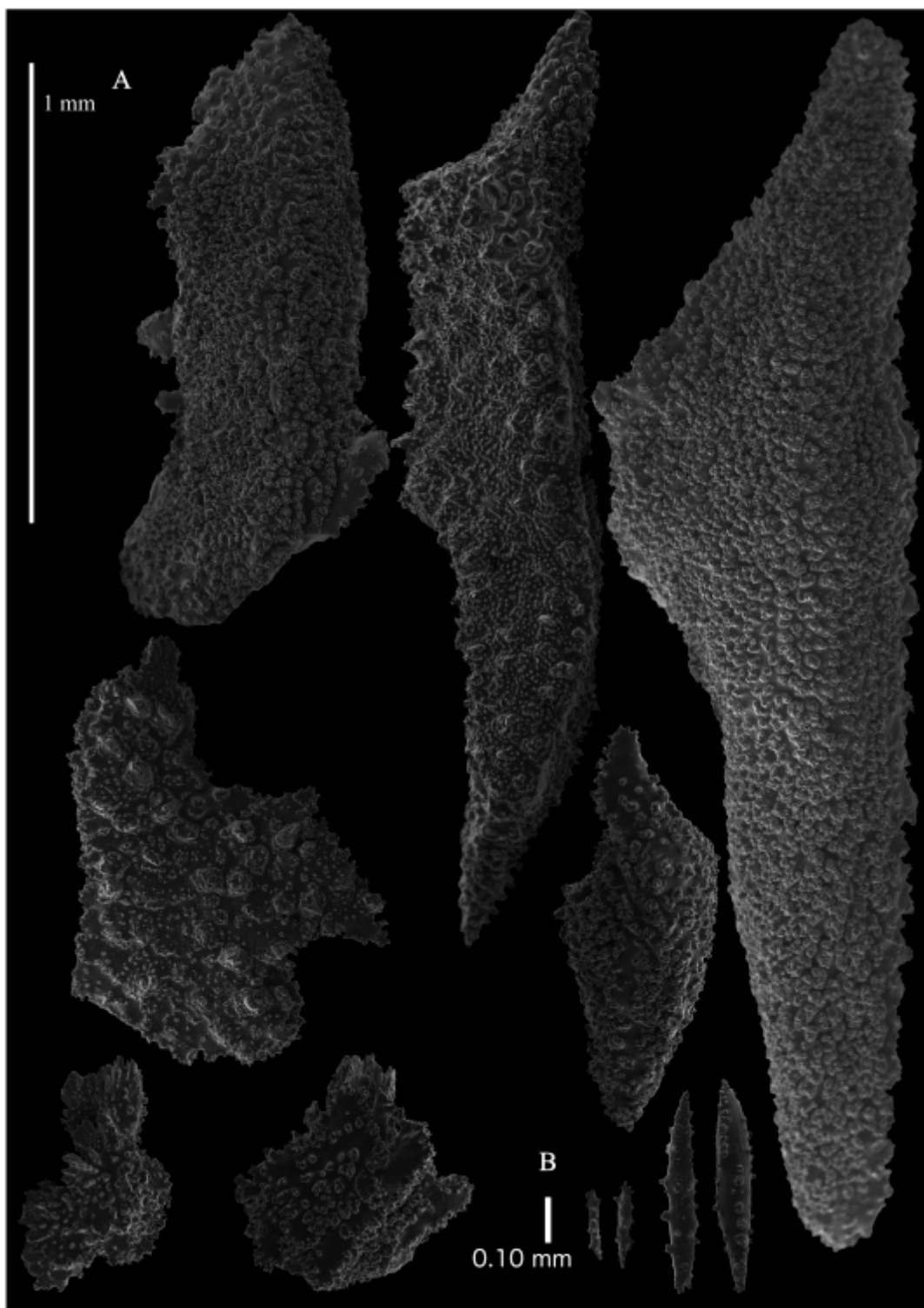


Figure 16. *Neocis pustulata* holotype of *Acis pustulata* BMNH1889.5.27.140: (A) coenenchyme spindles, (B) interior coenenchymal spindles.

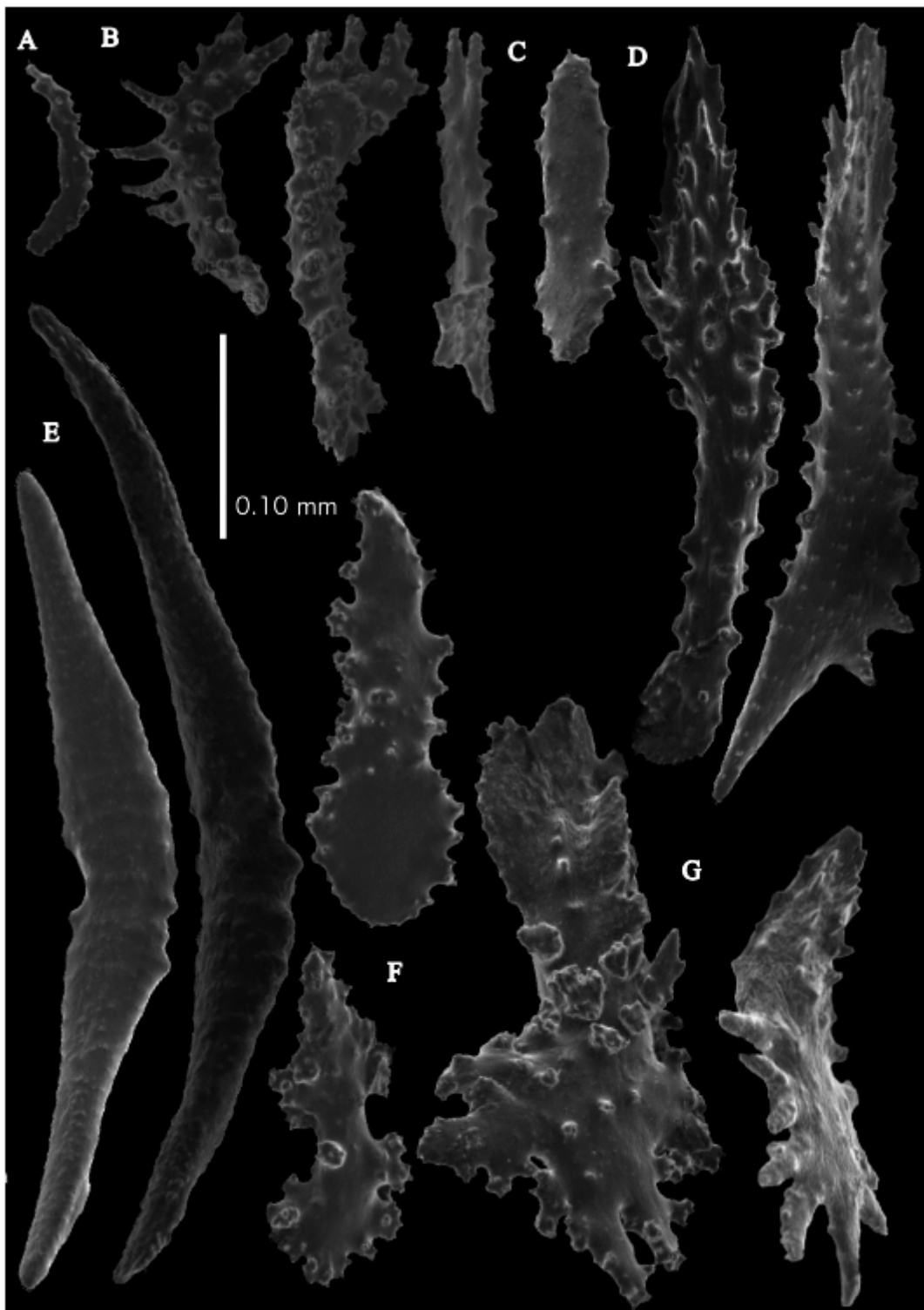


Figure 17. *Neoacis pustulata* UMUTZ-G253: (A,B) tentacle sclerites (dragon wing scales), (C) interior coenenchymal spindles, (D) point sclerites, (E) collaret spindles, (F,G) calycular thornscales.

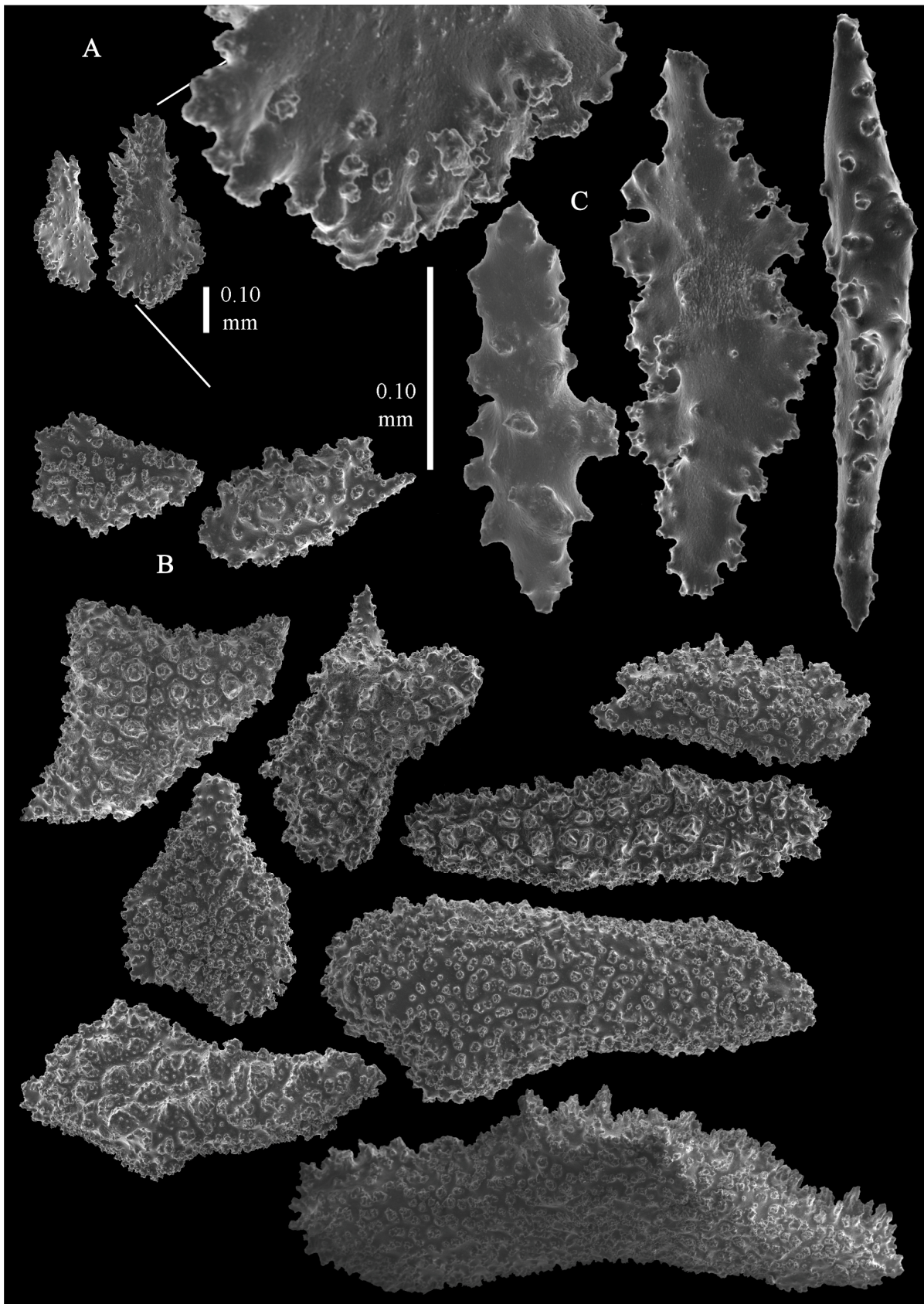


Figure 18. *Neocis pustulata* UMUTZ-G253: (A) calyces thornscales, (B) coenenchyme spindles, (C) interior coenenchymal spindles.

Re-description. Holotype (BMNH1889.5.27.140) colony 12.6 cm high and 8.5 cm wide (Figure 14A). Stem and branches flattened in the plane of branching. Branches about 1.5–2 mm wide. Calyces conical, 1–1.5 mm apart, present on three sides of the branches (Figure 14A is the polyp-free side of the colony). Polyps with collaret and points (Figure 2D). Point sclerites are bent spindles (Figure 14C), up to 0.39 mm long, with simple tubercles and spiny upper part. Collaret with bent spindles (Figure 14D), up to 0.32 mm long, with simple tubercles, both ends less tuberculate. Tentacles with dragon wing scales (Figure 14A), up to 0.20 mm long, with simple tubercles. Calyces with thornscales (Figure 14B,B'), up to 0.4 mm long. Lower part of these thornscales branched, with simple, complex, and rounded tubercles, upper part with one or two blunt spreading spines. Coenenchyme with big spindles, up to 3.0 mm long (Figure 15A). These sclerites with small spines on the outer surface and complex tubercles, often placed on low protuberances. Interior with smaller spindles, up to 0.5 mm long, with sparse simple tubercles (Figure 15B).

Colour. Holotype colony white with violet polyps. Anthocodial sclerites violet, coenenchymal sclerites white.

Variation. UMUTZ-G253 *Acis pustulata*, white colour, which was figured colony in Kinoshita (Figures 2E, 14B, 17 and 18). UMUT-G110 is the purplish-red coloured colony (Figure 14C) and was in the same jar as UMUTZ-G253.

Distribution. East China Sea and Pacific side of Japanese water from Okinawa, Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands.

Remarks. This species differs from the other three described here in having thornscales with blunt-ended spines and coenenchymal sclerites having small spines on the outer surface. Kinoshita [1] mentioned only one white colony, which is UMUTZ-G253. Kinoshita wrote in the description that “Namely in one specimen the spicules are white, while in all the other specimens they are purplish red.”. UMUTZ-G201, the white specimen, is not mentioned by Kinoshita [1]. Kinoshita mentions that the polyps occur only exceptionally on the posterior surface of the colony (Figure 14B).

Genus IMBRICACIS gen. nov.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:5994B4BE-4EC4-4FBD-9459-D16C72EFCD7F

Type species: *Acis ijimai* Kinoshita, 1909.

Diagnosis. Colonies branch in one plane. Polyps situated on three sides. Coenenchyme with large polygonal thick plates, with their outer surface smooth or with rounded tubercles, inner surface granular. Calycular sclerites similar but smaller. Points with bulky rods with upper end smooth or spiny and lower end tuberculate. Collaret not present.

Etymology. Combination of *imbrico* (Latin for tile) and *Acis*.

Remarks. One other species has been described from Japan, *Acis miyajimiai* Kinoshita, 1909. At least three other species exist in the Indo-Pacific, *Acis squamata* Nutting, 1910, a species from Hawaii described as belonging to a new genus in the unpublished thesis of K. Muzik (USNM56858) and a species from the Indian Ocean (USNM89348) newly described here. The genus differs from other genera with big plates in lacking a collaret and not having thornscales in the calyx.

Key to the species (five species).

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Outer side of the coenenchymal plates is smooth; | 2 |
| - Outer side of the coenenchymal plates has rounded tubercles. | 3 |
| 2. Point sclerites strongly tuberculate with leafy distal end; | <i>Imbricacis foliata</i> sp. nov. |
| - Point sclerites weakly tuberculate with spiny distal end. | <i>Imbricacis miyajimiai</i> |
| 3. Point sclerites with distal end wide, not spiny; | <i>Imbricacis hawaiiensis</i> sp. nov. |
| - Point sclerites with spiny distal end. | 4 |
| 4. Stout calycular rods present, some calycular sclerites with smooth distal end; | <i>Imbricacis squamata</i> |
| - No calycular rods and no calycular sclerites with smooth distal end. | <i>Imbricacis ijimai</i> |

***Imbricacis ijimai* (Kinoshita, 1909)**

(Figure 7B–D, Figure 19A–C and Figures 20–25)

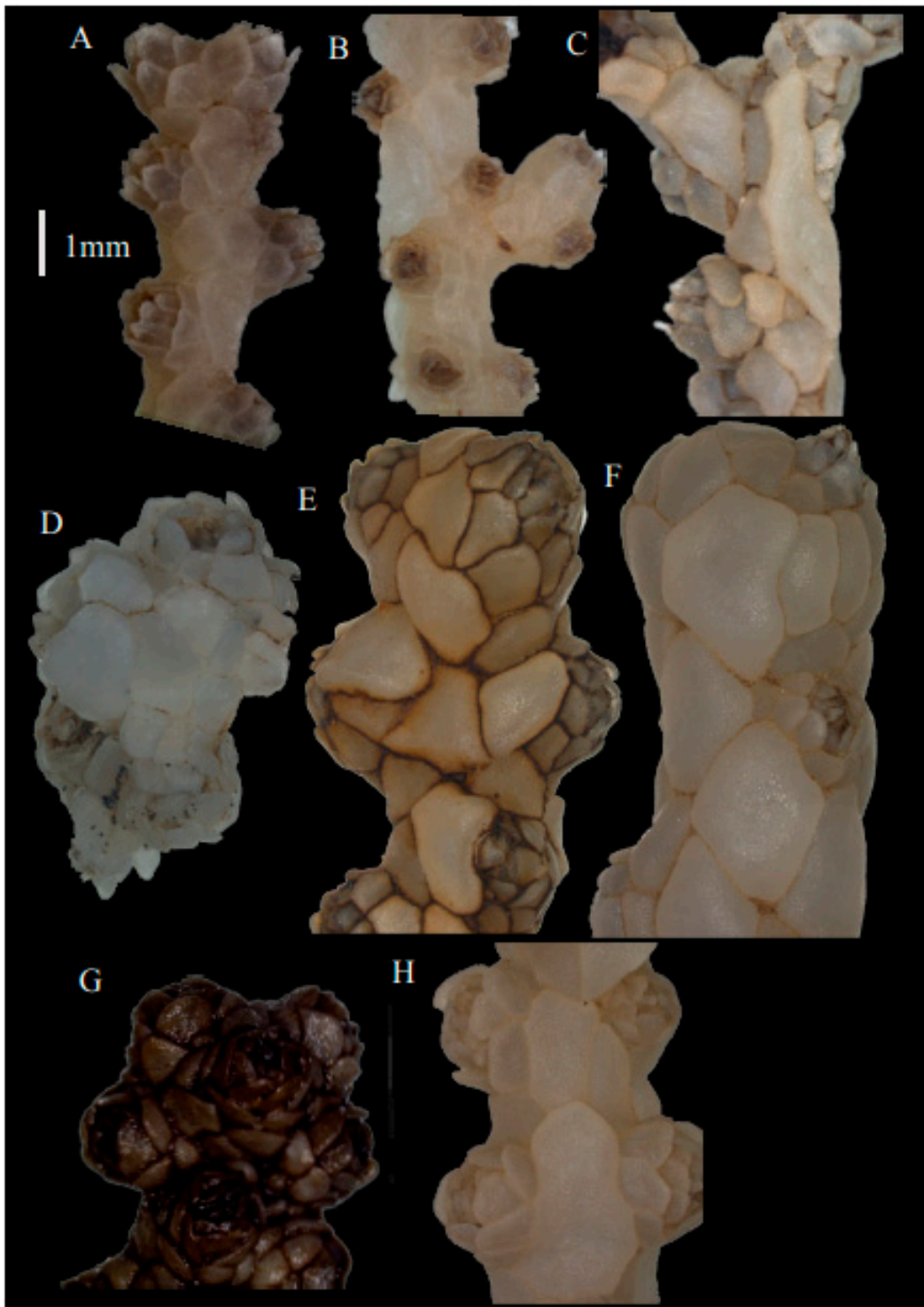


Figure 19. Polyps (A) *Imbricacis ijimai* holotype of *Acis ijimai* UMUTZ-G097, (B) *I. ijimai* USNM44077, (C) *I. ijimai* USNM49909, (D) *I. foliata* n. sp. Holotype USNM89348, (E) *I. hawaiiensis* n. sp. holotype BPBM-D529, (F) *I. hawaiiensis* n. sp. paratype USNM1010725, (G) *I. miyajimai* holotype of *Acis miyajimai* UMUTZ-G211, (H) *I. squamata* lectotype of *Acis squamata* ZMA Coel. 2142b st. 253.

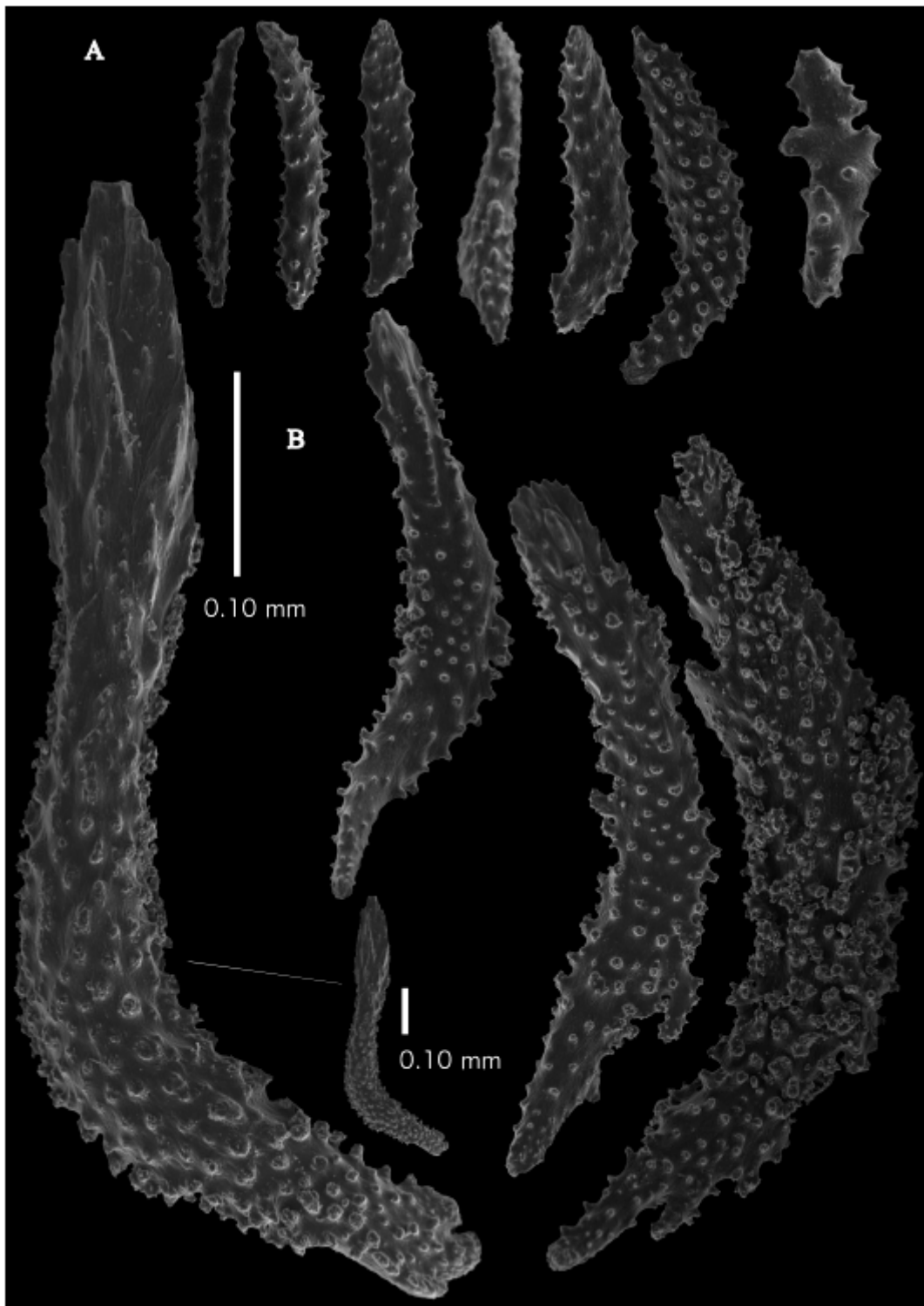


Figure 20. *Imbricacis ijimai* holotype of *Acis ijimai* UMUTZ-G097: (A) tentacle spindles, (B) point sclerites of polyps.

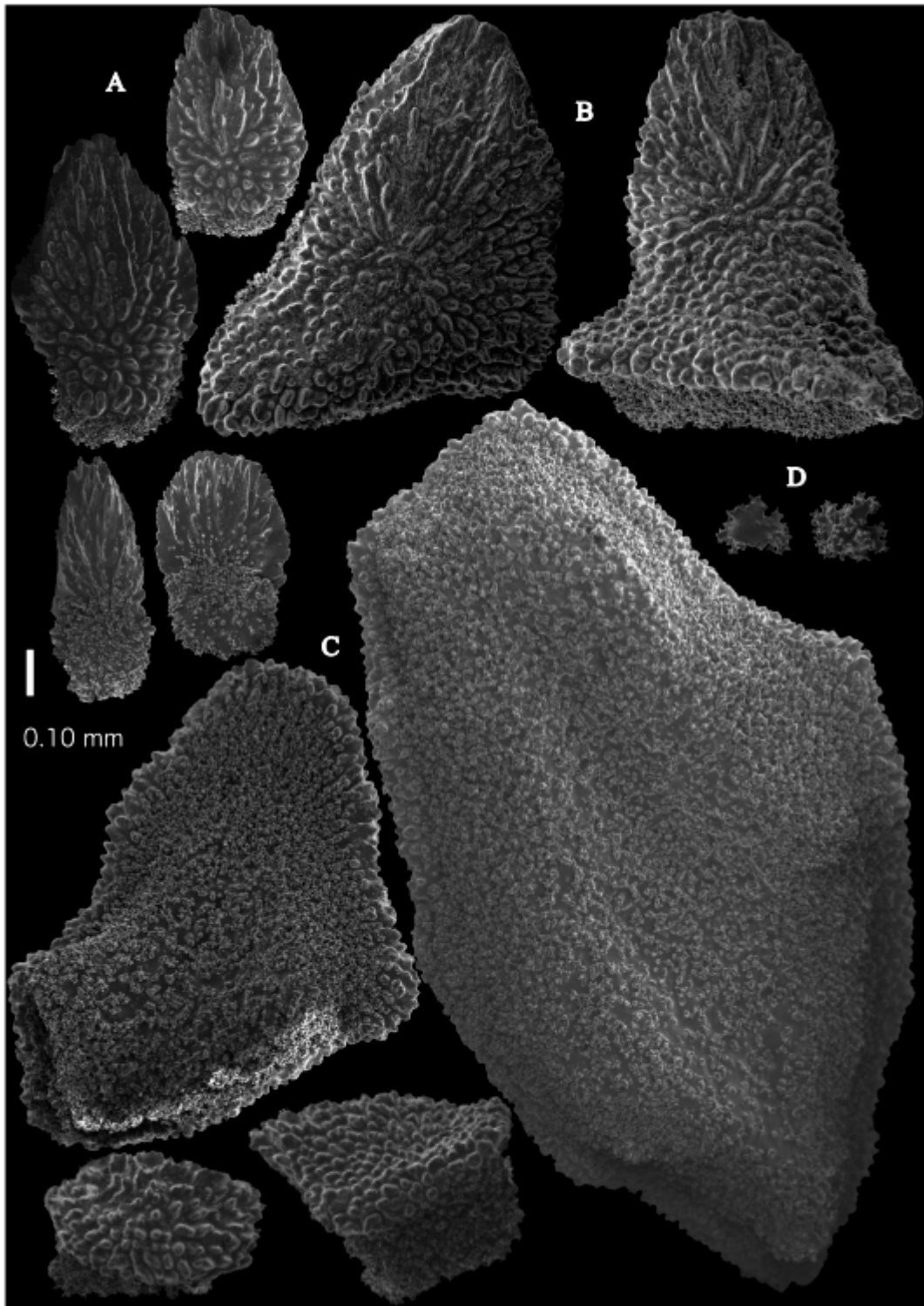


Figure 21. *Imbricacis ijimai* holotype of *Acis ijimai* UMUTZ-G097: (A,B) calycular plates, (C) coenenchyme plates, (D) interior irregular sclerites.

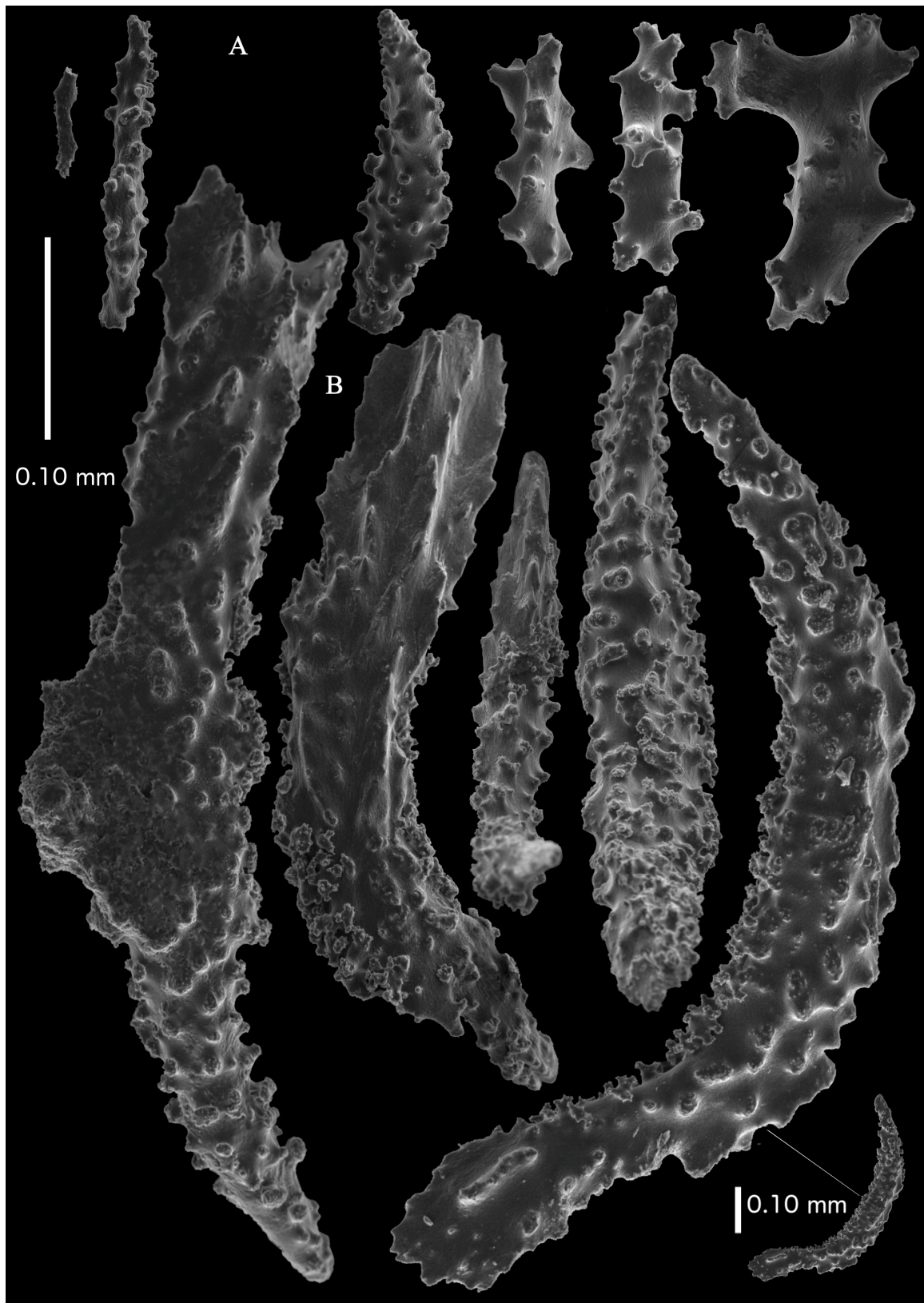


Figure 22. *Imbricacis ijimai* USNM44077: (A) tentacle spindles, (B) point sclerites of polyps.

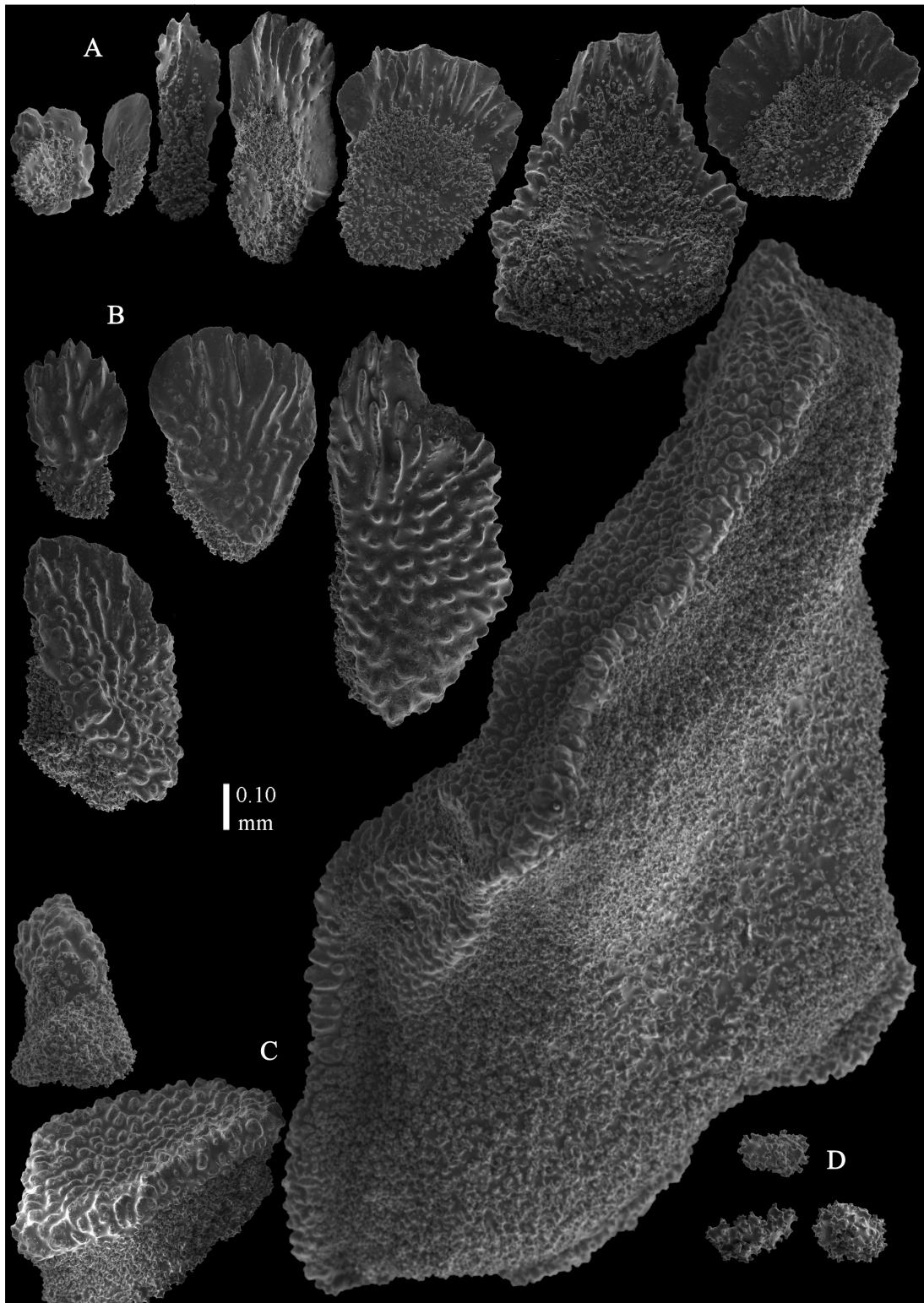


Figure 23. *Imbricacis ijimai* USNM44077: (A,B) calycular plates, (C) coenenchyme plates, (D) interior irregular sclerites.

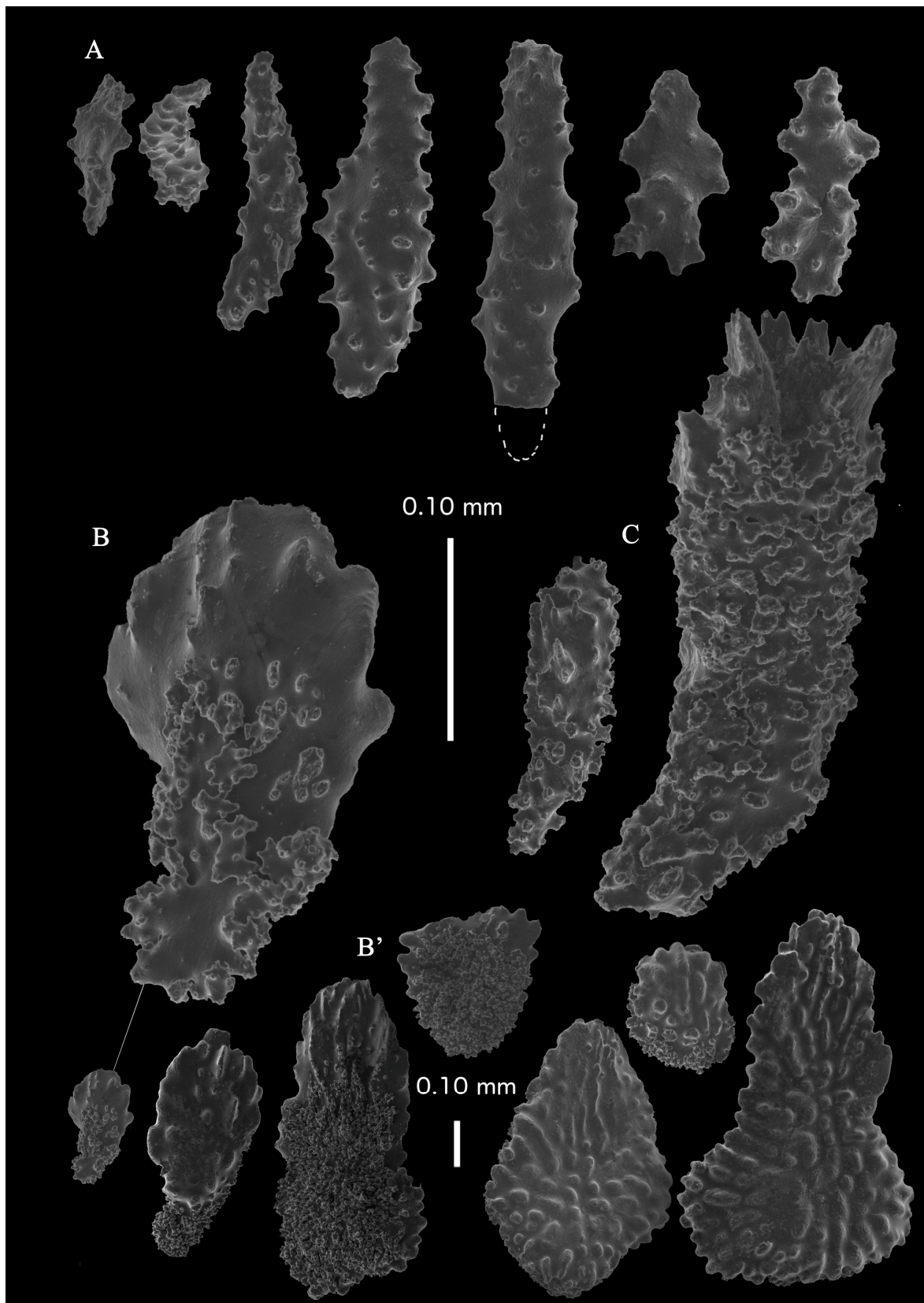


Figure 24. *Imbricacis ijimai* USNM49909: (A) tentacle spindles, (B,B') calycular plates, (C) point sclerites of polyps.



Figure 25. *Imbricacis ijimai* USNM49909: (A) coenenchyme plates, (B) interior irregular sclerites.

Acis ijimai Kinoshita, 1909: 8, pl. 1 Figure 3, pl. 2 Figures 13–16 (Uji island); Kükenthal, 1924: 158.

Paracis ijimai Kükenthal, 1924: 158.

Not *Paracis* cf. *ijimai* Aurivillius, 1931: 146, Figure 28, pl. 3 Figure 6 (Okinose Bank, Misaki, Sagami Bay).

Not *Paracis squamata* Bayer 1949: 198, Figure 6a–e, pl. 1 Figure 1 (Bikini (USNM44077)); Muzik 1979: 62 (Philippine (USNM49909)).

Material examined. Holotype **UMUTZ-G097** *Acis ijimai* Coral ground of Uji Is., Kagoshima Pref., Japan, East China Sea, depth 80–90 fathoms (146–164 m), Satsuma Expedition, June 1908, coll. Kumao Kinoshita; syntype **USNM73492** *Acis ijimai* same data as UMUTZ-G097; other materials **USNM44077** previously identified as *Paracis squamata* by Bayer 1949, Ralik Chain, Bikini Atoll, Off Enyu Pass, Marshall Islands, North Pacific Ocean, 11.4731' N, 165.526' E, depth 213–221 m, Bikini Scientific Resurvey, 1947, st. 30, coll. Russell, R. D., 22 August 1947; **USNM49909** previously identified as *Paracis squamata* by F. M. Bayer and Muzik 1979, Alb-USFC/A5398A, Gigantangan Island, between Masbate and Leyte Islands, Samar Sea, Philippines, 11.5867 N, 124.23 E, depth 208 m, R/V Albatross Philippines Expedition, Trawl–Agassiz beam, 12 ft, with mud bag, 15 March 1909; **USNM77282** Ker-madec Islands, New Zealand, South Pacific Ocean, 30.63' S, 178.52' W, depth 219 m, R/V Viti, Leeward Cruise, st. C530, 19 September 1960, det. Bayer; **USNM1439589-2** Tinian Channel, Tinian Island, Northern Mariana Islands, North Pacific Ocean, 14.917' N, 145.615' E, depth 116–146 m, R/V Pangloulou Oro, st.15, 27 October 1973, coll. Grigg, R. W.; Eldredge, L. G.; **AKM162**, Hirase, Okinawa, Japan, depth ca.130 m, R/V Tansei-maru cruise KT02-03, St. A-5, 1 m Dredge, 15 April 2002; **AKM550** Off Takato, Tachibana-ura, Otsuki, Tosa, Japan, 132°48.06' E, 32°43.08' N–132°47.68' E, 32°43.12' N, Kiryo-maru, st.3, depth 84.75–83.1 m, 7 October 2004; **AKM1214** Off Yokoate-jima Is. Tokara Isls., Okinawa, Japan, 129°04.09' E, 28°54.90' N, depth 395 m, R/V Tansei-maru cruise KT07-21, st. DY205, 30 August 2007, coll. Yokose; **AKM1221**, Off Takarajima Is. Okinawa, Japan, 129°10.43' E, 29°05.29' N, depth 334 m, R/V Tansei-maru cruise KT07-21, st. DT203-1, 31 August 2007, coll. Yokose; **AKM1389**, West of Chichijima Is. Ogasawara Isls., Japan, 142°07.412' E, 27°01.395' N–142°07.467' E, 27°01.360' N, depth 139–144 m, R/V Tansei-maru cruise KT09-2, st.TW01-01, 19 March 2009, coll. A.K. Matsumoto; **AKM1475**, West of Chichijima Is. Ogasawara Isls., Japan, 142°07.466' E, 27°01.371' N–142°07.489' E, 27°01.344' N, depth 135–136 m, R/V Tansei-maru cruise KT09-2, st.TW01-02, 19 March 2009, coll. A.K. Matsumoto.

Re-description. The holotype (UMUTZ-G097) is 5.3 cm high and 9.5 cm wide, branched in one plane (Figure 7B). Stem is 2 mm in diameter and the branches are 1.5 mm in diameter. Calyces are conical, situated on three sides on the main branches, in two rows on the terminal branches. They are separated 1–2 mm from each other (Figure 19A).

The polyps have large bent spindles, up to 0.6 mm long (Figure 20B), the upper part with ridges and the lower part with simple tubercles. Smaller tentacle spindles, 0.10–0.15 mm long, have simple tubercles only (Figure 20A). The calyces are covered in plates (Figure 21A,B), the distal ones scale-like with rounded tubercles and ridges distally (Figure 21A), others with rounded tubercles only (Figure 21B). The calycular plates are 0.3–0.8 mm long. The interior of the plates is granular. The surface layer of the branches with large plates forming a mosaic. The outer side of the plates has rounded tubercles, the inner side is granular (Figure 21C). These plates are up to 4 mm long. The interior of the coenenchyme has irregular-shaped sclerites with simple and complex tubercles (Figure 21D). These sclerites are up to 0.4 mm long.

Colours. Colony white with brownish polyps. Anthocodial sclerites colourless. Coenenchymal sclerites white.

Variation. Muzik [9] mentioned that the Bikini specimen (USNM44077 (Figures 7C, 22 and 23)) and *Alb*-Philippine specimen (USNM49909 (Figures 7D, 24 and 25)) are different from each other, and the Philippine specimen resembles *P. squamata*. We interpret these differences as an intraspecific variation because USNM49909 lacks the pronounced ridges on the calycular sclerites (Figure 35B) and peculiar rod-like calycular sclerites (Figure 35A) that are diagnostic of *I. squamata*.

Distribution: Japan, Northern Mariana Islands, Philippines: Northwest Pacific; Kermadec Islands: South Pacific.

Remarks. The smooth rods of the pinnules mentioned by Kinoshita [1] were not observed by us. Though we did not re-examine the material of *Paracis* cf. *ijimai* Aurivillius [6], according to the following reasons, we consider that it probably is a species of *Pseudoparacis* gen. nov. Aurivillius described that (1) it has a collaret which is not present in *Imbricacis* gen.nov. and (2) it does not have the dragon wing sclerites which are present in *Neoacis*. He also mentioned that (3) the polyps of *P. ijimai* are distributed all around the stem, but *I. ijimai* has polyps distributed around three sides of the main branches.

Imbricacis foliatasp. nov.

(Figures 19D, 26A, 27 and 28)

Material examined. Holotype USNM89348, 60 Naut. Mile NE of Heard Island, Indian Ocean, depth 500 m, coll. date unknown.

Description. The holotype is 4.6 cm high and 1.8 cm wide, branched in one plane (Figure 26A). Stem is 2.1 mm in diameter. Stem and larger branches flattened in a plane perpendicular to that of the branches. Terminal branches cylindrical, 1.6 mm in diameter. Calyces are conical, situated on three sides of the branches, closely set to each other (Figure 19D). The polyps have large bent spindles, up to 0.5 mm long. The upper part has ridges, some leafy, the lower part with simple and complex tubercles (Figure 27B,B'). Tentacle spindles, 0.10–0.20 mm long, have simple tubercles only (Figure 27A). The calyces are covered in plates, the distal ones with distal ridges (Figure 27A). The plates are 0.4–0.6 mm long. The interior of all plates is granular. The surface layer of the branches with large plates forming a mosaic. The outer side of the plates is smooth, the inner side is granular (Figure 28B). These plates are up to 5 mm long. The interior of the coenenchyme has spindles with complex tubercles (Figure 28C). These sclerites are up to 0.4 mm long.

Colour. Colony white. Anthocodial sclerites colourless. Coenenchymal sclerites white.

Distribution. The species is only known from the type of locality, off Heard Island, Indian ocean.

Etymology. From the Latin *folia* (leaf), referring to the presence of leafy distal ends of the polyp sclerites that distinguish it from *I. miyajimai*.

Remarks. The species differs from *I. miyajimai*, the other species with coenenchymal plates with a smooth outer surface, in having point sclerites with a leafy distal end.

Imbricacis hawaiiensis sp. nov.

(Figure 19E, F, Figure 26B,C, Figures 29 and 30).

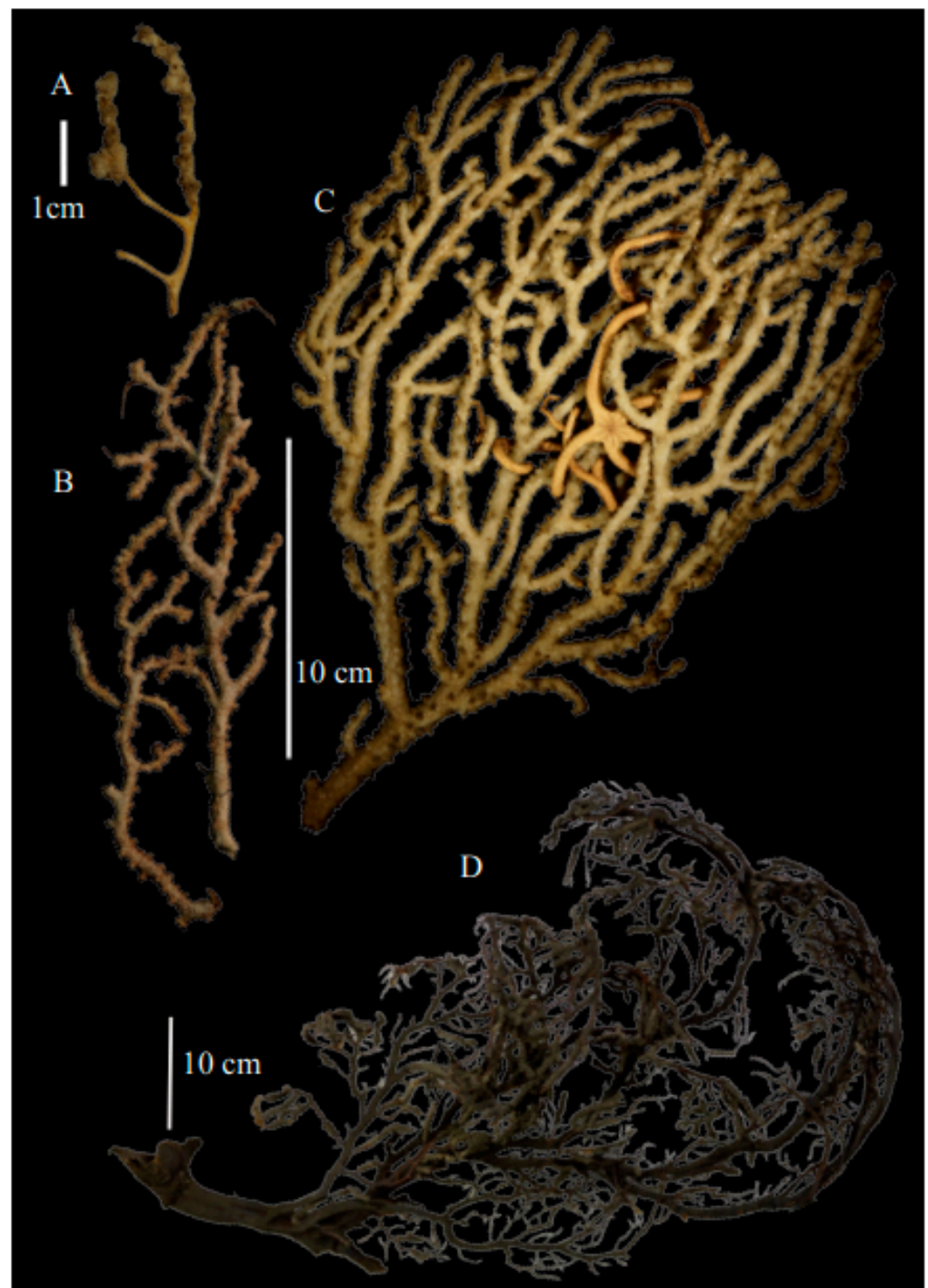


Figure 26. Colonies: (A) *Imbricacis foliata* n. sp. holotype USNM89348, (B) *I. hawaiiensis* n. sp. holotype BPBM-D529, (C) *I. hawaiiensis* n. sp. paratype USNM1010725, (D) *I. miyajimai* holotype of *Acis ijimai* UMUTZ-G211.

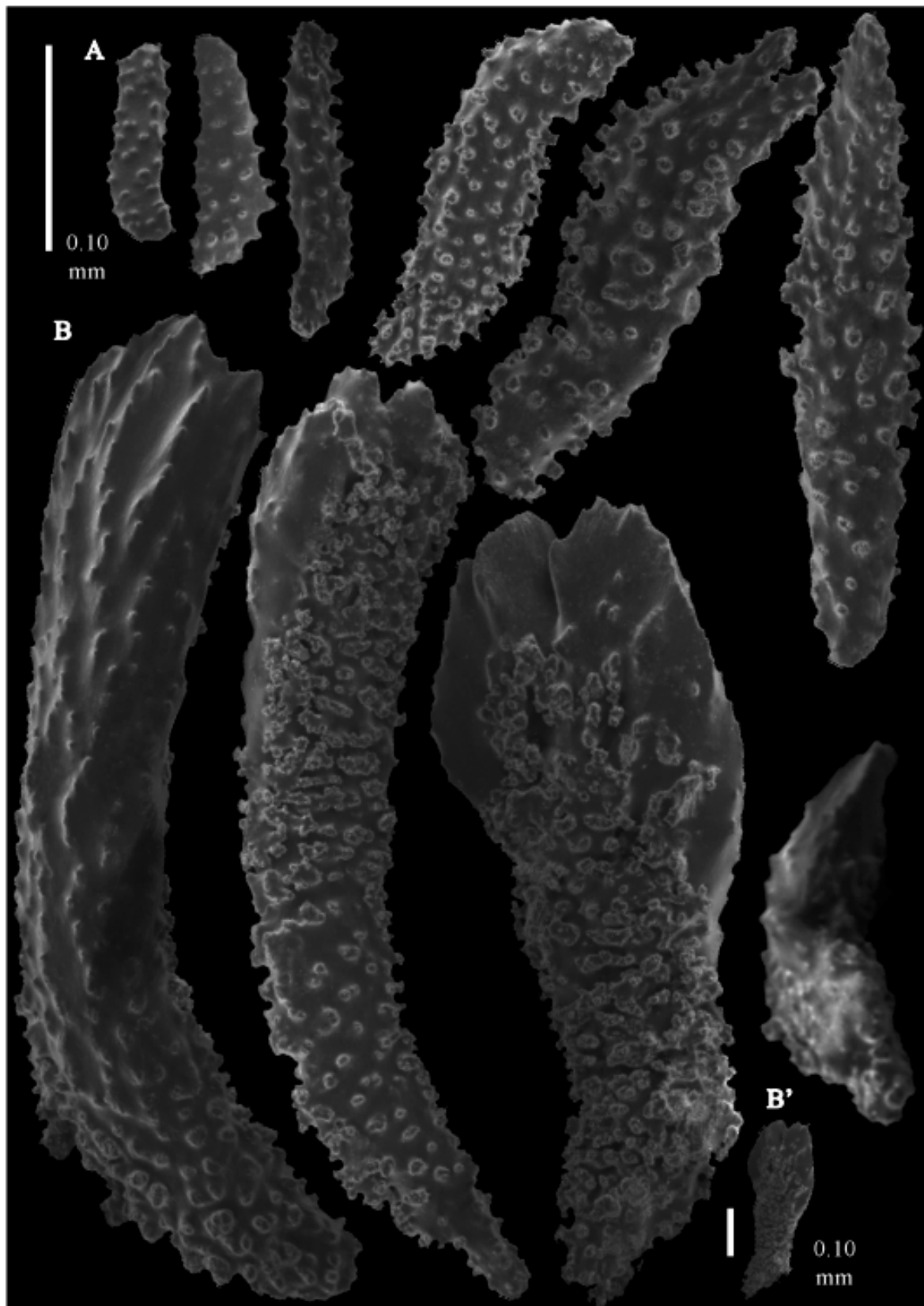


Figure 27. *Imbricacis foliata* n. sp. holotype USNM89348: (A) tentacle sclerites, (B,B') polyp sclerites.

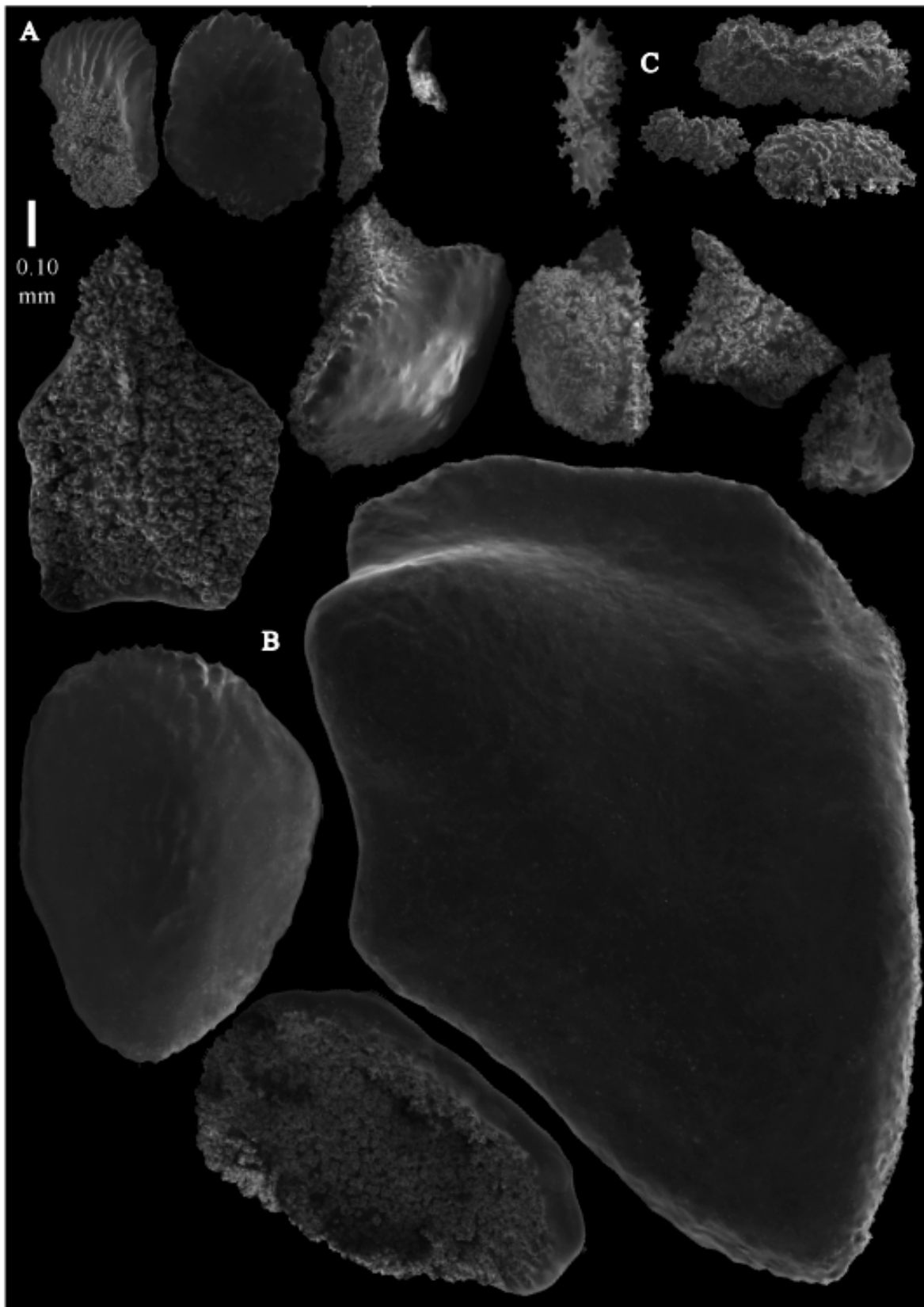


Figure 28. *Imbricacis foliata* n. sp. holotype USNM89348: (A) calycular plates, (B) coenenchyme plates, (C) interior coenenchymal spindles.

[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:B367267A-1979-47A0-B458-2D1F9BF544CC](https://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:B367267A-1979-47A0-B458-2D1F9BF544CC)

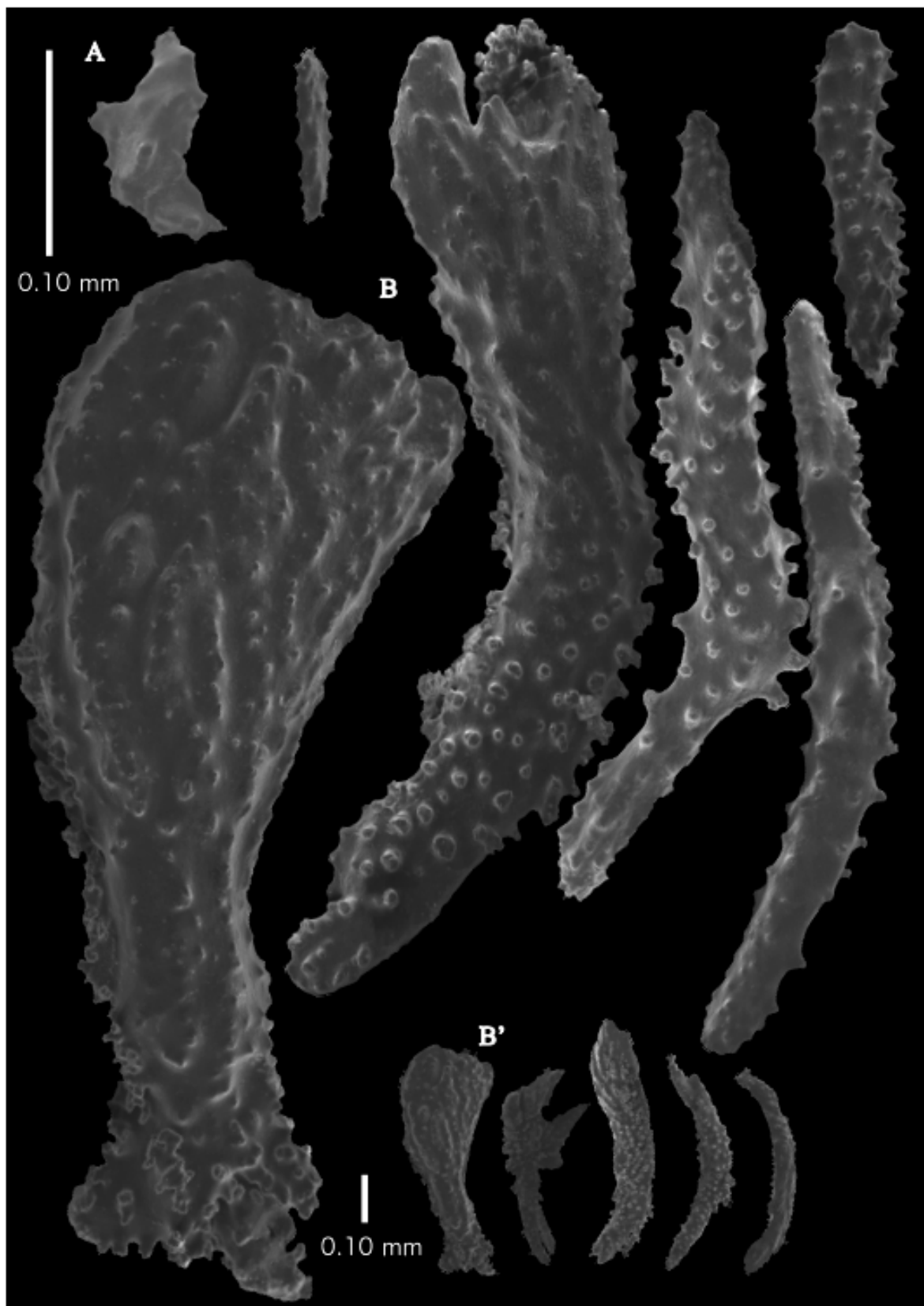


Figure 29. *Imbricacis hawaiiensis* n. sp. holotype BPBM-D529: (A) tentacle sclerites, (B,B') polyp sclerites.

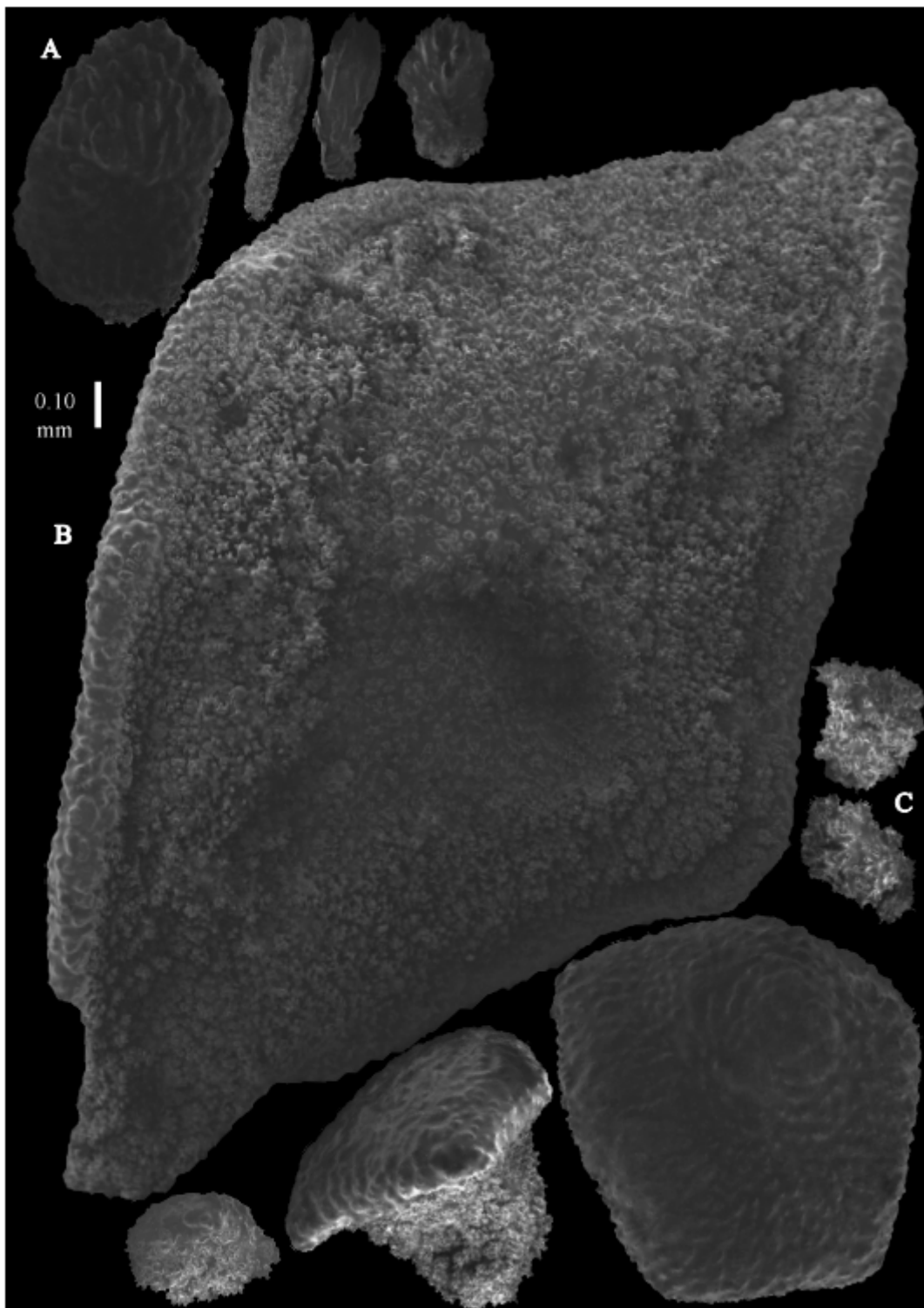


Figure 30. *Imbricacis hawaiiensis* n. sp. holotype BPBM-D529: (A) calycular plates, (B) coenenchyme plates, (C) interior coenenchymal irregular sclerites.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:72D8495E-BCD9-4B80-B666-99437DF20052

New genus species A: Muzik, 1979: 56-62, Pls. VII, VIII.

Material examined. Holotype, **BPBM-D529**, Makapuu, depth 1200 ft (=365.76 m), coll. R. Grigg, id: KMM as new genus, new species, 1977; paratype, **USNM1010725** Kahoolawe, Maui County, Hawaii, North Pacific Ocean, 20.4863' N, 156.66' W, depth 403 m,

DSR/V Pices 4, KOK/Pices 4 cruise, Dive P4-047, 5 September 2002, coll. Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory.

Description. The holotype (BPBM-D529) is 20 cm long and 7 cm wide, holdfast included (Figure 26B). Stem is 6.8 mm in diameter, and branches are 3 mm in diameter. Calyces are conical, situated on three sides on the main branches, in two rows on the terminal branches. They are separated 2.8–3.7 mm from each other (Figure 19E). The polyps have large bent spindles, up to 0.55 mm long, with simple tubercles and widened distal end (Figure 29B,B'). Smaller tentacle spindles, 0.10–0.20 mm long, have simple tubercles only (Figure 29A). The calyces are covered in plates (Figure 30A), the distal ones are scale-like with rounded tubercles and ridges distally. The plates are 0.30–0.50 mm long. The interior of the plates is granular. The surface layer of the branches with large plates forming a mosaic (Figure 30B). The outer side of the plates has rounded tubercles, and the inner side is granular. These plates are up to 7 mm long. The interior of the coenenchyme has irregular-shaped sclerites with simple and complex tubercles (Figure 30C). These sclerites are up to 0.30 mm long.

Colour. Dried colony looks to be of a dark colour, but the original colony was white. Anthocodial sclerites colourless. Coenenchymal sclerites white.

Variation. Paratype (USNM1010725) is an intact colony, 26.4 cm long and 17.8 cm wide, holdfast included (Figures 19F and 26C).

Distribution. The species is only known from the type locality, Hawaii, North Pacific.

Etymology. The species is named after its type locality, Hawaii.

Remarks. The species differs from *I. ijimai* and *I. squamata*, the two other species with rounded tubercles on the outer side of the coenenchymal plates, in lacking point sclerites with distal spiny ends. The other materials from Hawaii in USNM (98805, 98806, 1071439), which have been previously identified as *Paracis* cf. *squamata* by F. M. Bayer on 1 May 1997 or *Paracis miyajimae*, we have not examined, but they could also be this species.

***Imbricacis miyajimae* (Kinoshita, 1909)**

(Figures 19G, 26D, 31 and 32)

Acis miyajimae Kinoshita, 1909: 10, Pl. 1 Figures 4–6, pl. 2 Figures 17–20 (off Province of Satsuma).

Paracis miyajimae Kükenthal, 1924: 158.

Material examined. holotype UMUTZ-G211 *Acis miyajimae* Coral ground of Kagoshima Pref., Japan, East China Sea, depth unknown. Obtained 1 July 1898. Bought at Kataura market, Kagoshima Pref. Japan by Mikinosuke Miyajima. Dry.

Re-description. The dry holotype is 70 cm high and 50 cm wide, branched in one plane (Figure 26D). Most of the coenenchyme is lost. Stem is 2 cm in diameter. Stem and larger branches flattened in a plane perpendicular to that of the branches. Terminal branches cylindrical, 1.5 mm in diameter. Calyces are conical, situated on three sides of the branches, closely set to each other (Figure 19G). The polyps have large bent spindles, up to 0.6 mm long. The upper part is rounded and the lower part has simple tubercles (Figure 31B). Tentacle spindles, 0.10–0.20 mm long, have simple tubercles only or are almost smooth (Figure 31A). The calyces are covered in plates (Figure 32A), the distal ones are granular but smooth distally. The plates are 0.3–1 mm long. The interior of all plates is granular. The surface layer of the branches has large plates forming a mosaic. The outer side of the plates is smooth, but the inner side is granular (Figure 32B). These plates are up to 3 mm long. The interior of the coenenchyme has spindles with simple tubercles (Figure 31C,C'). These sclerites are up to 0.4 mm long. The interior of the coenenchyme also has irregular-shaped sclerites with simple and complex tubercles (Figure 32C). These sclerites are up to 0.19 mm long.

Colours. Dried colony looks to be of a dark colour. Sclerites are all white.

Distribution. Only known from type of locality.

Remarks. This species differs from *I. ijimai*, the most widespread Japanese species, by its very large colony size and quite solid and smooth sclerites on the surface.

***Imbricacis squamata* (Nutting, 1910)**

(Figure 19H, Figure 33A–C, Figures 34 and 35)

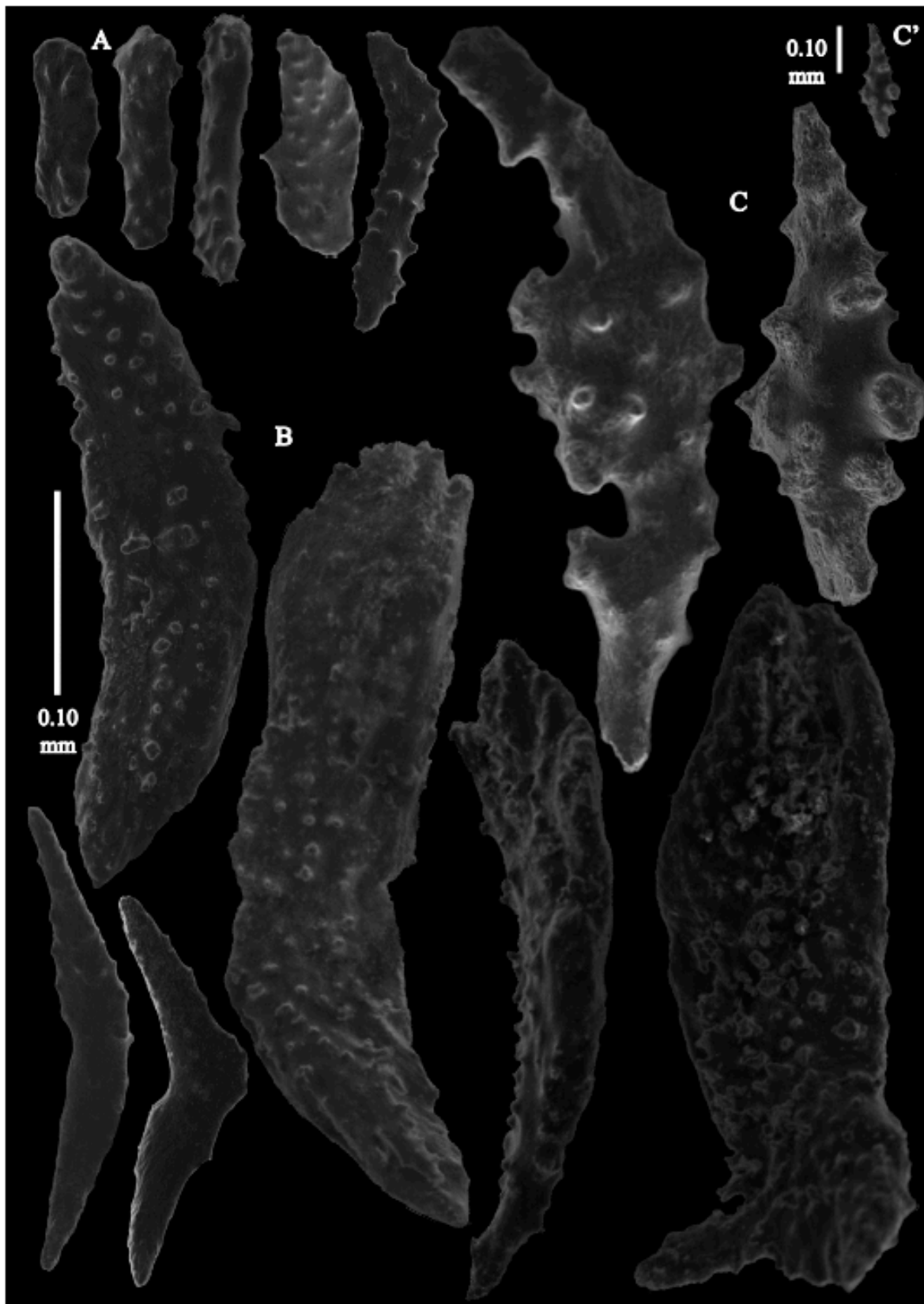


Figure 31. *Imbricacis miyajimai* holotype of *Acis ijimai* UMUTZ-G211: (A) tentacle sclerites, (B) polyp sclerites, (C,C') interior coenenchymal spindles.

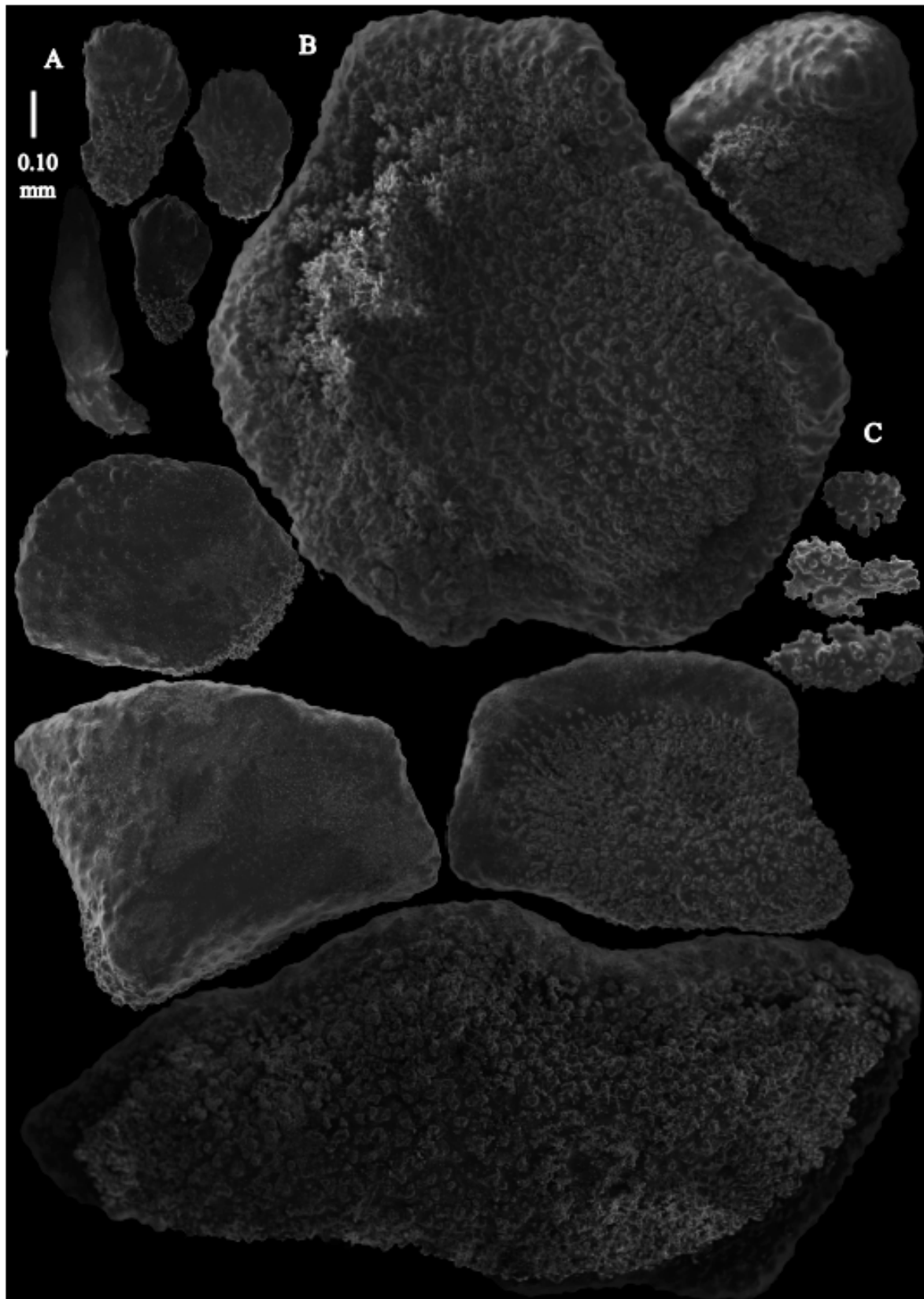


Figure 32. *Imbricacis miyajimai* holotype holotype of *Acis ijimai* UMUTZ-G211: (A) calycular plates, (B) coenenchyme plates, (C) interior coenenchymal irregular sclerites.

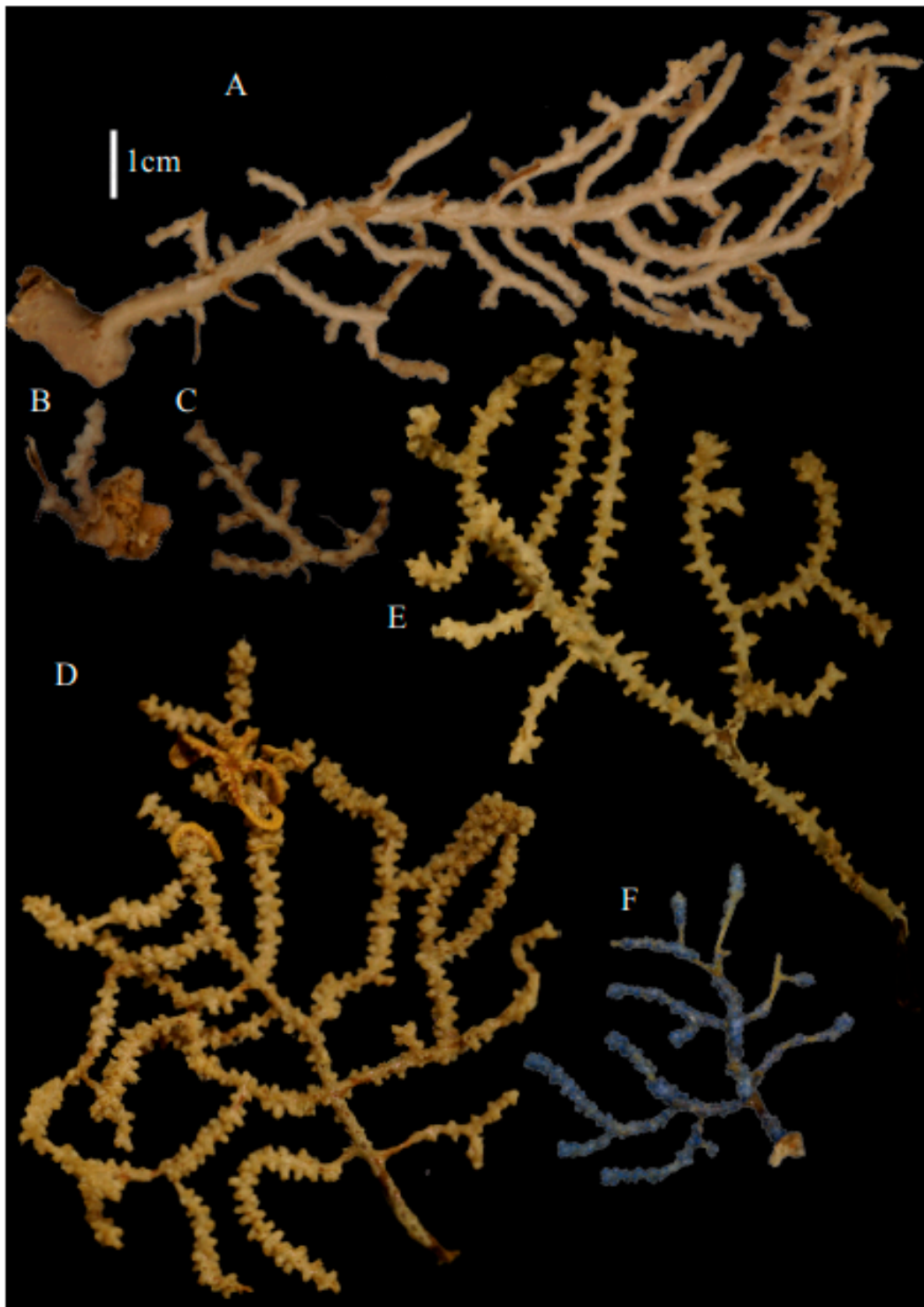


Figure 33. Colonies: (A) *Imbricacis squamata* lectotype of *Acis squamata* ZMA Coel. 2142b SIBOGA st. 253, (B) *I. squamata* ZMA Coel. 2143 SIBOGA st. 105, (C) *I. squamata* ZMA Coel. 2144 SIBOGA st. 251, (D) *Pseudoparacis spinifera* holotype of *Acis spinifera* USNM30088, (E) *P. spinifera* USNM 49341, (F) *P. spinifera* RMNH.COEL.47988 (AKM554) live colour.

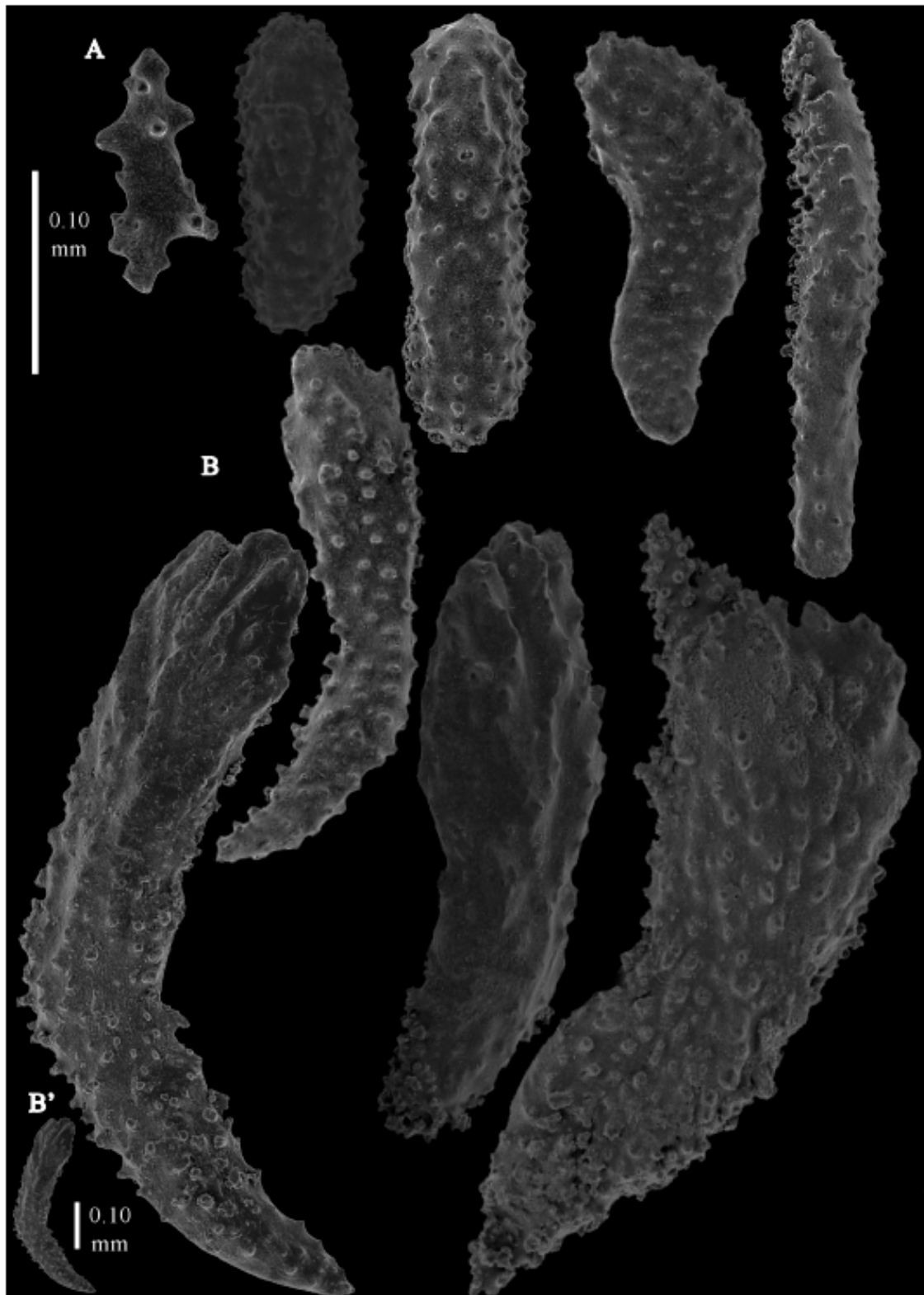


Figure 34. *Imbricacis squamata* lectotype of *Acis squamata* ZMA Coel. 2142b: (A) tentacle spindles, (B,B') polyp sclerites.

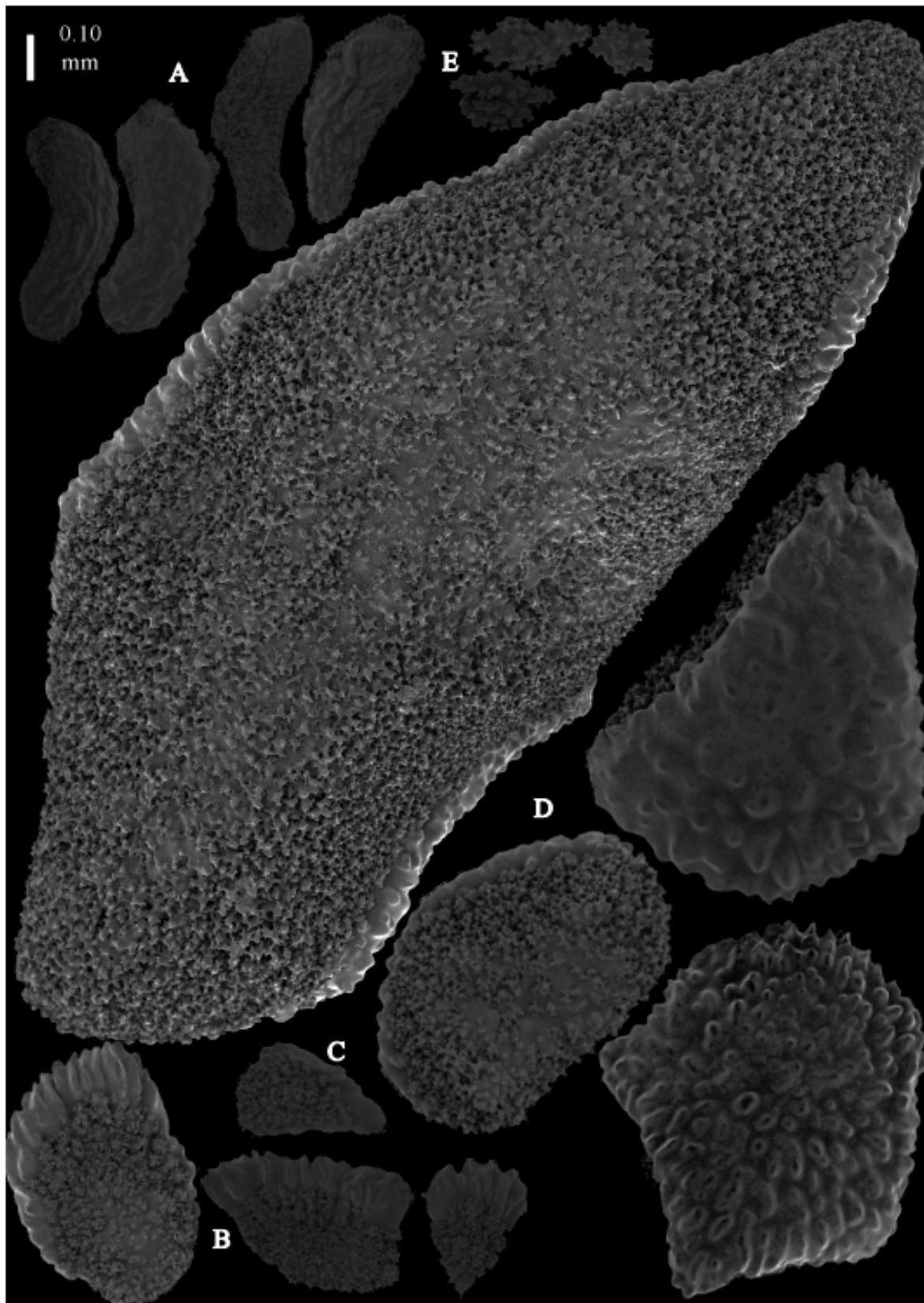


Figure 35. *Imbricacis squamata* lectotype of *Acis squamata* ZMA Coel. 2142b: (A–C) calycular plates, (D) coenenchyme plates, (E) interior coenenchymal irregular sclerites.

Acis squamata Nutting, 1910: 42, pl. VII Figure 2, 2a, pl. XX Figure 50 (Kei islands Indonesia, SIBOGA st. 253); Thomson and Dean 1931: 200, pl. 5, Figure 2, pl. 16, Figure 9.

Paracis squamata; Kükenthal 1924: 158, Figure 108, 109; Aurivillius 1931: 145 (in Key only); van Soest 1979: 92.

? *Acis squamata* Nutting, 1912: 81 (Japan).

NOT *Acis squamata* Nutting, 1910: 42, st. 65A (Kei islands), st. 305 (off Kampong Menanga).

Material examined. lectotype, **ZMA Coel. 2142b** (syntype on the label) SIBOGA st. 253, 5°48′.2 S., 132°13′ E. near Kei Islands, depth 304 m, clay; non-types **ZMA Coel. 2143** SIBOGA st. 105, 6°8′ N., 121°19′ E. Sulu Sea, 275 m. Coral. bottom; **ZMA Coel. 2144**, SIBOGA st. 251, 5°28.4′ S., 132°0.2′ E. Kei Islands, depth 204 m, Harter coral sand. 1 Ex.

Re-description. The lectotype (ZMA Coel. 2142b) is 10 cm long and 3 cm wide, holdfast included (Figure 33A). Stem is 5 mm in diameter, and the branches are 2 mm. Calyces are conical, situated on three sides on the main branches, in two rows on the terminal branches. They are separated 1–2 mm from each other (Figure 19H). The polyps have large bent spindles, up to 0.40 mm long, the upper part with ridges and the lower part with simple tubercles (Figure 34B,B′). Smaller tentacle spindles, 0.10–0.20 mm long, have simple tubercles only (Figure 34A). The calyces are covered in plates (Figure 35); the distal ones are scale-like with rounded tubercles and ridges distally (Figure 35B), whereas others are with rounded tubercles only or with a smooth distal end (Figure 35C). Several of these calycular plates are rod-like (Figure 35A). The plates are 0.30–0.50 mm long. The interior of the plates is granular. The surface layer of the branches with large plates forms a mosaic. The outer side of the plates has rounded tubercles; the inner side is granular (Figure 35D). These plates are up to 3 mm long. The interior of the coenenchyme has irregular-shaped sclerites with simple and complex tubercles (Figure 35E). These sclerites are up to 0.25 mm long.

Colours. Colony white with brownish polyps. Anthocodial sclerites colourless. Coenenchymal sclerites white. Live colour of *I. squamata* is not clear. Nutting mentioned that the SIBOGA material he examined has been longer preserved in alcohol.

Distribution. Kei Islands, Sulu Sea, Indonesia.

Remarks. Nutting [4] mentioned type specimens from three localities, st. 65A, st. 253, and st. 305. In the RMNH, two jars are present: syntype ZMA Coel. 2142b: Stat. 253. 5°48′.2 S., 132°13′ E. near Kei Islands. 304 m. Clay; the other material, ZMA Coel. 2142a, with the label “cotype” from station 251, not mentioned by Nutting, is a species of *Keroeides*. ZMA Coel. 2143 from station 105 (Figure 33B) and ZMA Coel. 2144 from station 251 (Figure 33C) are not mentioned by Nutting as types. The material from SIBOGA Station 305 (Mid channel, Solor Strait, off Kampong Menanga, depth 113 m, stony) and station 65A (7°0′ S., 120., 120°34′. 5E. near Saleyer Island, depth 400 m, mud and coral) are not present anymore in the RMNH. In London, a fragment (BMNH1925.7.25.38) from station 305 is present, which also is *Keroeides*. The type specimen from station 65A (near Selayar Island, Greater Sunda Islands, Celebes Island, Sulawesi, Indonesia, South Pacific Ocean, 7°0′ S., 120°34.5′ (120.575) E., depth 300–400 m, Mud and coral, 6 May 1899) has been donated to the Iowa State University (van Soest 1979 [16]) and is now deposited in the Smithsonian Institution (USNM91922); it is not *I. squamata*.

We designate here ZMA Coel. 2142b as the lectotype of *Acis squamata* (Figures 33A, 34 and 35). The species mostly resembles *Imbricacis ijimai* Kinoshita, 1909 regarding colony shape and sclerites. It differs from that species in having more pronounced ridges on the calycular sclerites (Figure 31B), while some calycular sclerites have a smooth distal end. It also differs in having several peculiar rod-like calycular sclerites (Figure 31A). Though Nutting [5] reported *Acis squamata* of Alb-USFC/A4936, we could not find the specimen in the Smithsonian (USNM) and could not examine it.

Genus PSEUDOPARACIS gen. nov.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:C7C763FA-DAE2-49A0-A687-E412D0158E1B

Type species. *Acis spinifera* Nutting, 1912.

Diagnosis. Colonies branched in one plane. Coenenchyme with large polygonal thick plates. Calycular sclerites are thornscales. Points with spindles with upper end spiny and lower end tuberculate. Collaret with bent spindles, more tuberculate in the middle part. Tentacles with rods.

Etymology. A combination of *Pseudo* (Greek for false) and the genus *Paracis*.

Remarks. The genus mostly resembles *Paracis* but differs in lacking dragon wing sclerites in the tentacles and rounded tubercles on the outside of the coenenchymal plates.

Key to the species of *Pseudoparacis* (three species)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Coenenchymal plates with spines and ridges and small range of sizes, thornscales with blunt spine, polyps all around at the tip. | <i>P. japonica</i> |
| - . Coenenchymal plates without spines or ridges and large range of sizes, thornscales with sharp/blunt spine. | 2 |
| 2. Coenenchymal plates with rounded elevations, thornscales with blunt spine, polyps on three sides of branches. | <i>P. tansseii</i> sp. nov. |
| - . Coenenchymal plates with tubercles only, thornscales with sharp spine, polyps all around branches. | <i>P. spinifera</i> |

Pseudoparacis spinifera (Nutting, 1912)
(Figure 33D–F, Figures 36A and 37, Figures 38–40)

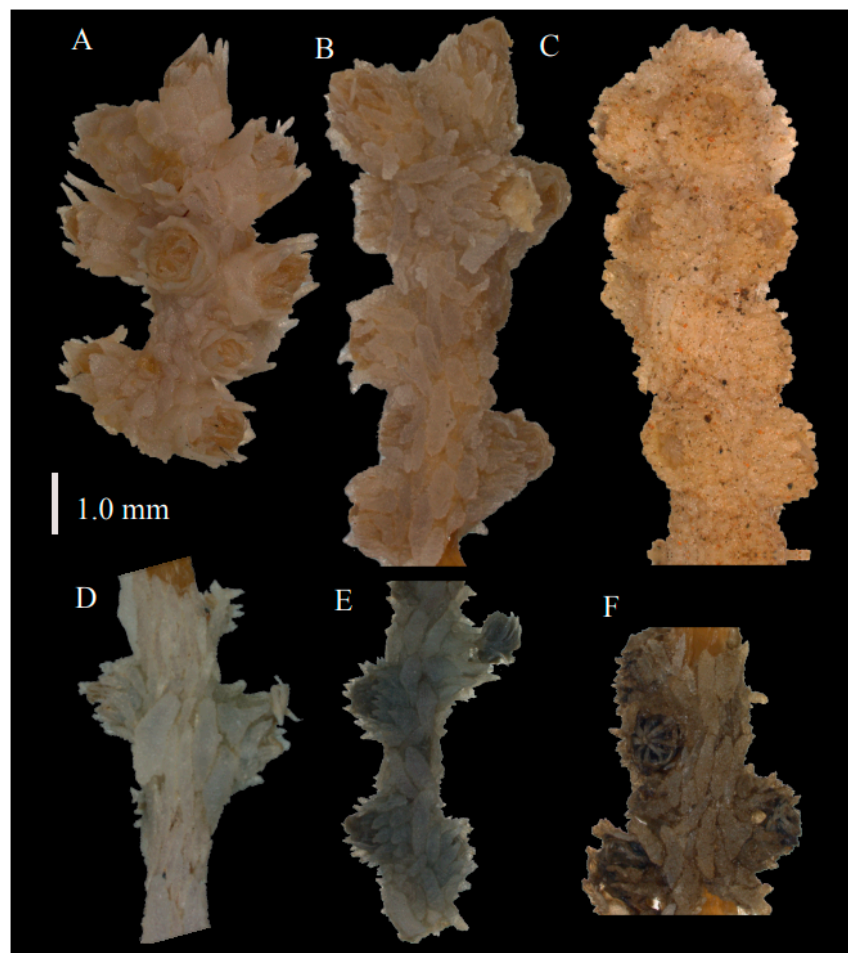


Figure 36. Polyps (A) *Pseudoparacis spinifera* holotype of *Acis spinifera* USNM30088, (B) *Pseudoparacis japonica* holotype of *Placogorgia japonica* USNM30096, (C) *P. japonica* holotype of *Pseudothesea foliata* UPSZTY2154 (UUZM57), (D) *Pseudoparacis tansseii* n. sp. holotype RMNH.COEL.47992 (AKM750), (E) *Pseudoparacis tansseii* n. sp. paratype RMNH.COEL.47995 (AKM1478), (F) *Pseudoparacis tansseii* n. sp. paratype RMNH.COEL.47994 (AKM589).

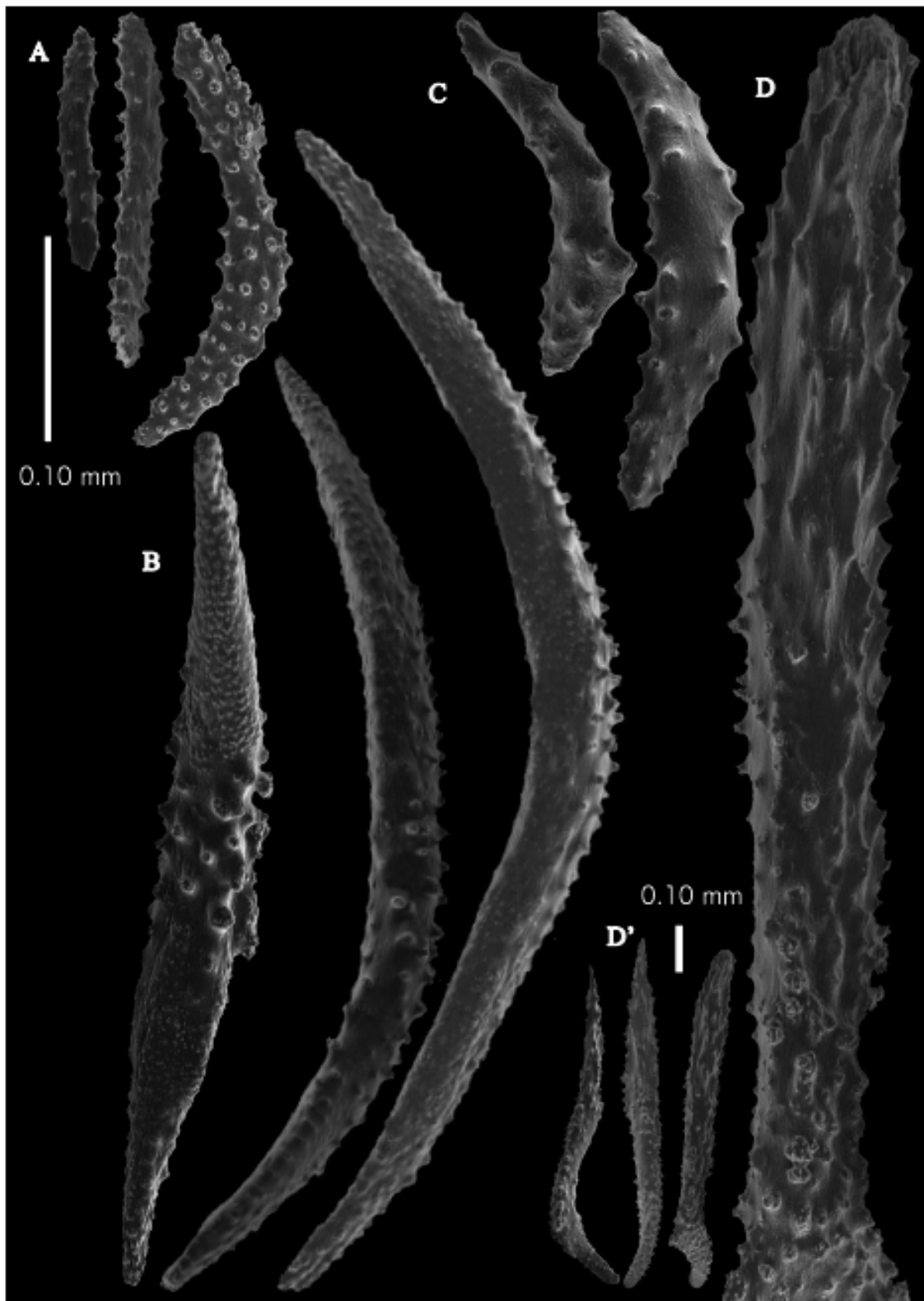


Figure 37. *Pseudoparacis spinifera* holotype of *Acis spinifera* USNM30088: (A) tentacle spindles, (B) collaret spindles of polyps, (C) interior coenenchymal spindles, (D,D') point spindles of polyps.

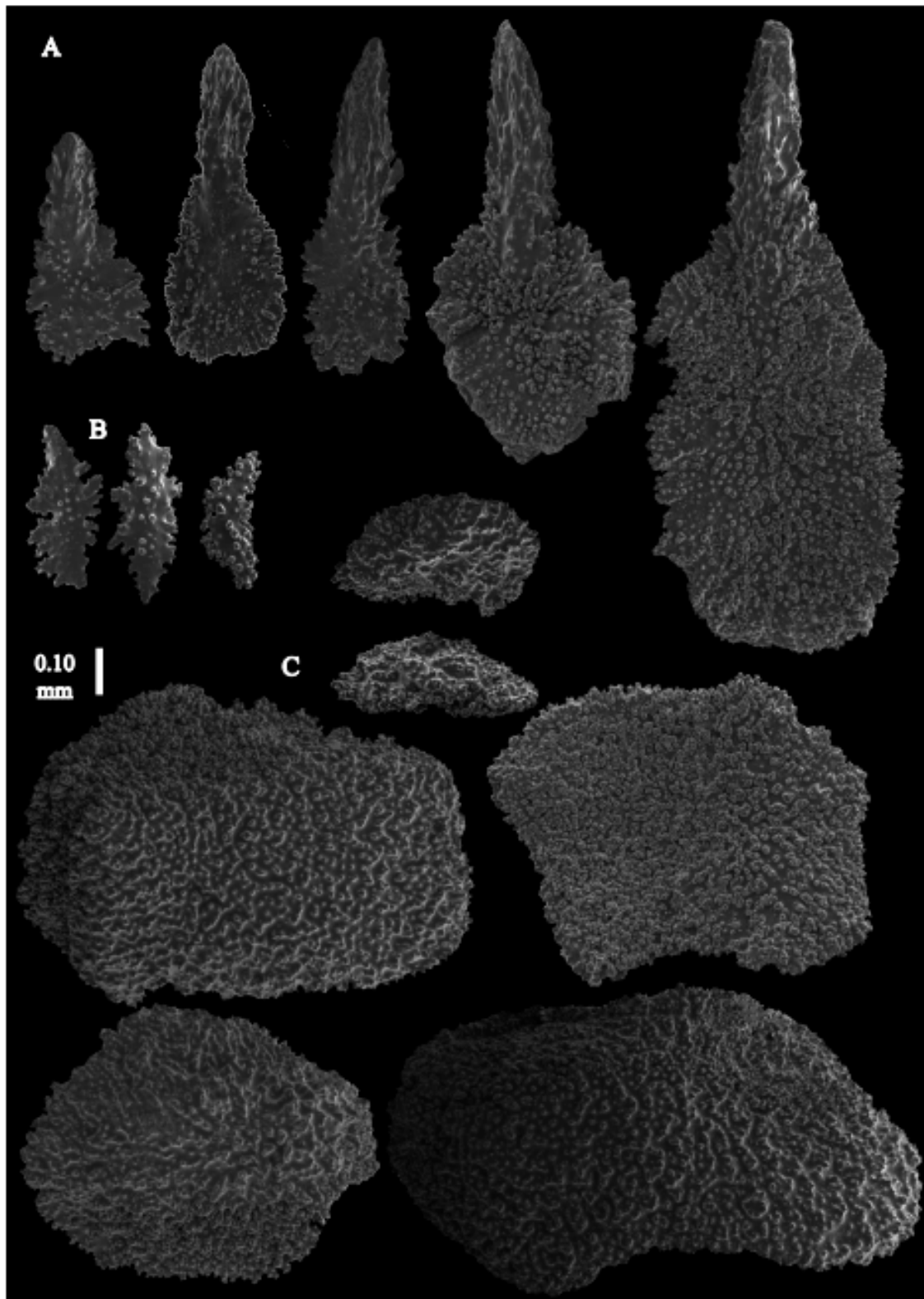


Figure 38. *Pseudoparacis spinifera* holotype of *Acis spinifera* USNM30088: (A) calycular thorn scales, (B) interior coenenchymal spindles, (C) coenenchyme plates.

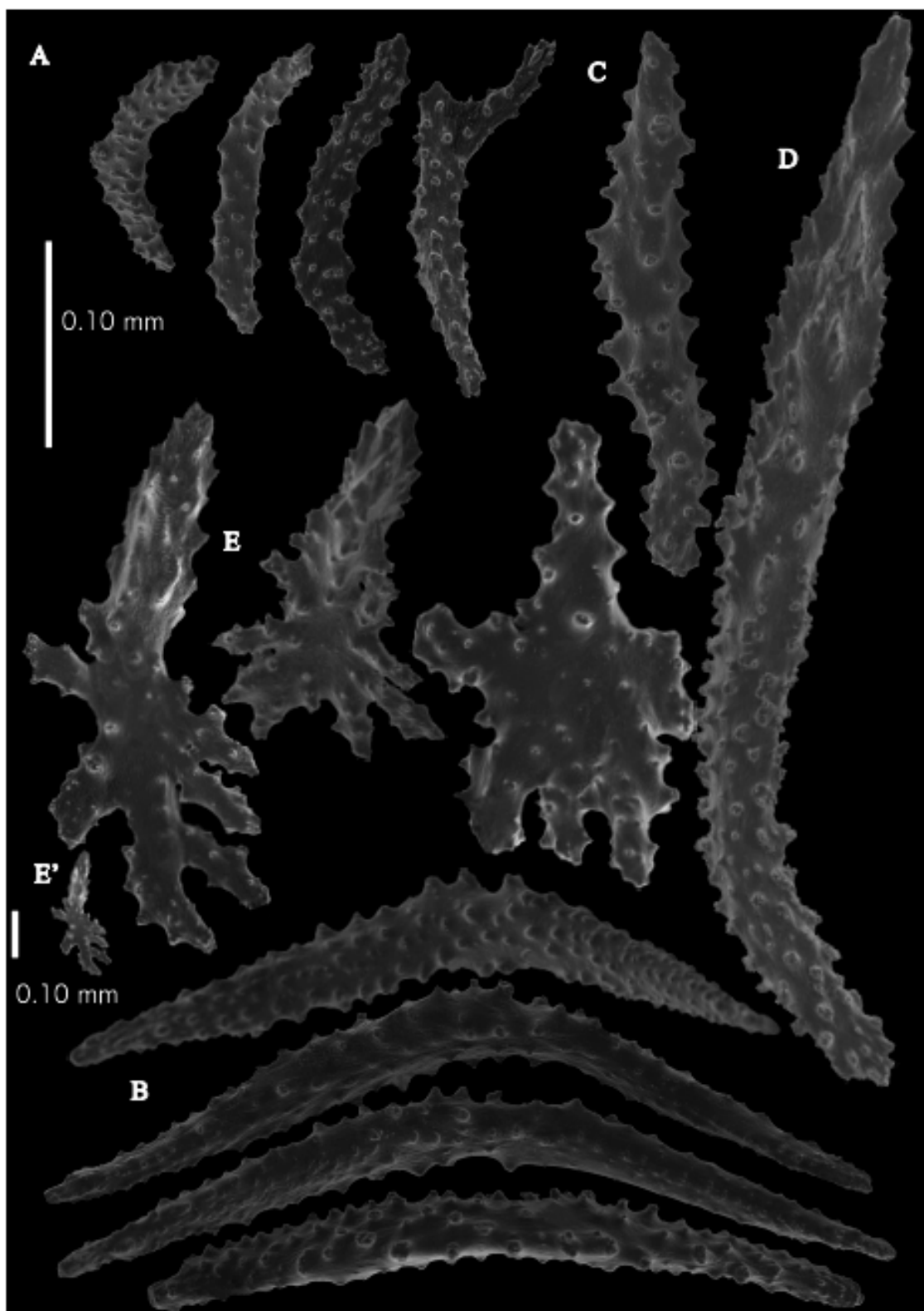


Figure 39. *Pseudoparacis spinifera* RMNH.COEL.47988 (AKM554): (A) tentacle spindles, (B) collar spindles of polyps, (C) interior coenenchymal spindles, (D) point spindles of polyps, (E,E') calycular thornscales.

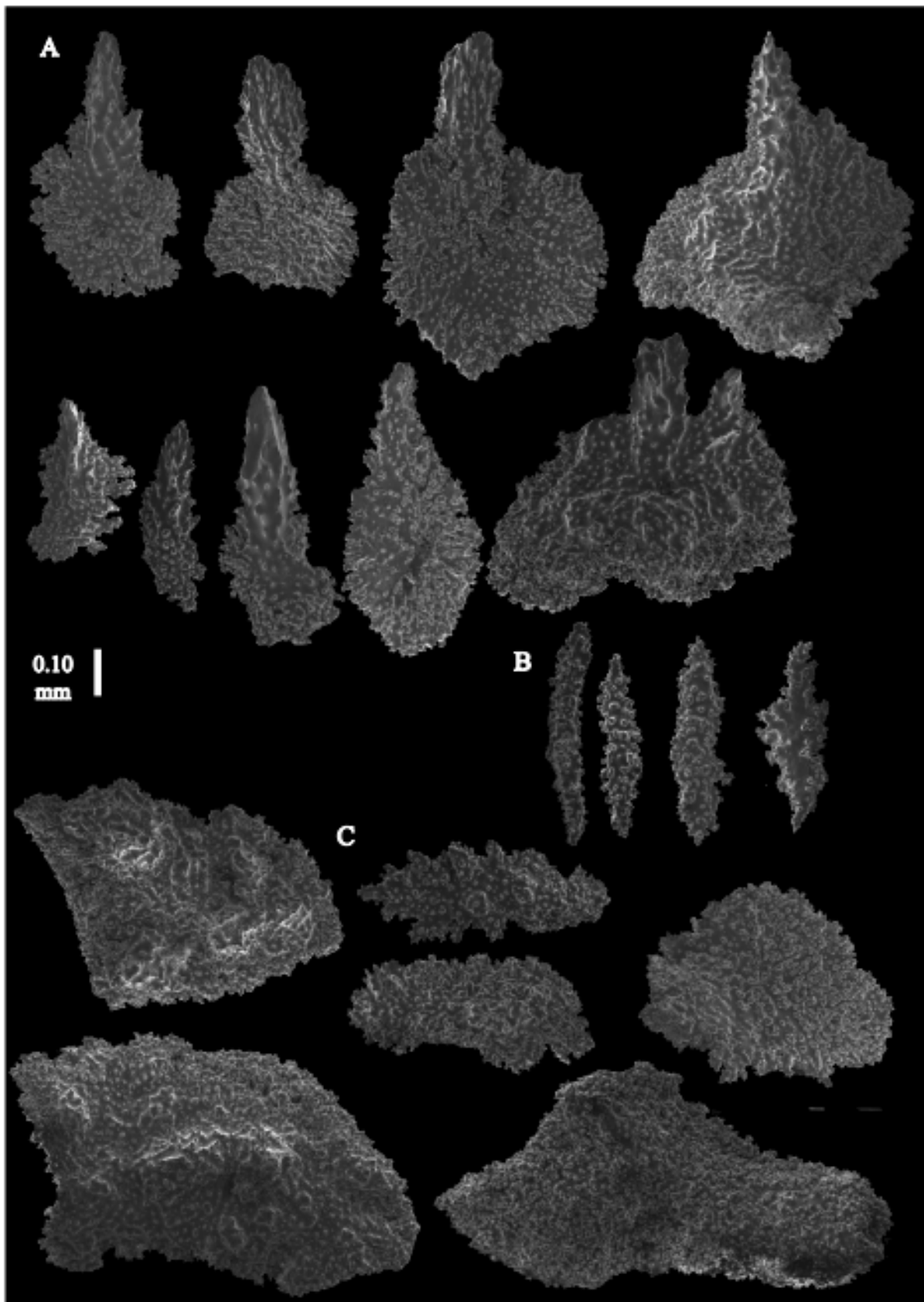


Figure 40. *Pseudoparacis spinifera* RMNH.COEL.47988 (AKM554): (A) calycular thorn scales, (B) interior coenenchymal spindles, (C) coenenchyme plates.

Acis spinifera Nutting, 1912: 82, pl. 13 Figures 2, 2a, pl. 21 Figure 1.

Paracis spinifera; Kükenthal, 1924: 161 Figure 110.

Stenella horrida Kükenthal, 1924: 304.

Paracis horrida; Muzik, 1979: 45, pl. III, IV, USNM56845, USNM56849 (Hawaii).

?*Paracis* cf. *ijimai*; Aurivillius, 1931: 146, Figure 28, pl. 3 Figure 6 (Sagami Misaki, Okinose).

Not *Stenella horrida* Thomson and Henderson, 1906:36 pl. V, Figure 13, pl. IX, Figure 3.

? *Paracis horrida*; Aurivillius, 1931: 145.

Material examined. Holotype USNM 30088, Alb-USFC/A4936, 54°40' N 130°37'30 E, Sata Misaki Light, 5.7 miles, off Kagoshima prefecture, North Pacific Ocean, 103 fathoms (188 m), Northwestern Pacific Expedition, 16 August 1906; other materials: USNM49341, Alb-USFC/A3742, 35°02' N 139° 50' E, Suno Saki, Chiba Prefecture, Sagami Bay, Honshu Island, Japan, North Pacific Ocean, depth, 104–161 m, Trawl–Blake Beam, 5.5 ft, coll. 19 May 1900, id by Bayer, dry; RMNH.COEL.47988 (AKM554) Off Takato, Tachibana-ura, Otsuki, Tosa, Japan, 132°48.06' E, 32°43.08' N–132°47.68' E, 32°43.12' N, Kiryo-maru, st.3, depth 84.75–83.1 m, 7 October 2004.

Re-description. Colony 9.6 cm high and 10 cm wide, branched in one plane (Figure 33D). Calyces conical, about 2 mm high and wide, present on all sides of the colony, often less than 1 mm apart. Polyps with collaret and points (Figure 36A). Point sclerites are bent spindles (Figure 37D,D'), up to 0.8 mm long, with lower part with simple tubercles, and spiny upper part. Collaret with bent spindles (Figure 37B), up to 0.5 mm long, with simple tubercles, most pronounced in the middle. Tentacles with rods (Figure 37A), up to 0.2 mm long, with simple tubercles. Calyces with thornscales (Figure 38A), 0.3–1.5 mm long. Lower part of the smaller thornscales branched, with simple tubercles, upper part with simple tubercles and spines. Larger thornscales have a less branched lower part. Coenenchyme with big plates, up to 1.2 mm long (Figure 38B), with simple tubercles. The size of coenenchyme sclerites extends over a wide range. Interior with spindles, up to 0.4 mm long, with simple tubercles (Figure 37C).

Colours. The live colour of RMNH.COEL.47988 (AKM554) colony is blue (Figure 33F) and sclerites are white. Nutting mentioned that the colour of the colony is tan-brown but did not mention if it was the live colour or not. Preserved colony and calyces are brown-grey.

Variation. Paratype (USNM 49341) has both branching and sclerites similar (Figure 33E). Newly collected material (RMNH.COEL.47988 (AKM554)) is a smaller colony but the sclerites are similar to the holotype (Figure 33F, 39 and 40).

Distribution. Kagoshima, Chiba, Kouchi Prefectures, Pacific side of Japan, North-west Pacific.

Remarks. From the description of *Paracis* cf. *ijimai* by Aurivillius [6], it is obvious he also had *Pseudoparacis* but failed to recognise it. Muzik [9] identified the Hawaiian specimens as *Paracis horrida* (Thomson and Henderson, 1906) in her dissertation (USNM56845, USNM56849). However, Hawaiian materials are more like *Pseudoparacis spinifera*. The original type description of *Stenella horrida* by Thomson and Henderson, 1906 [17] is unlikely *Pseudoparacis spinifera*. As we did not have a chance to examine the type of species, we cannot say for sure what it is based only on their figures and plates.

***Pseudoparacis japonica* (Nutting, 1912)**

(Figures 36B,C and Figures 41–45)

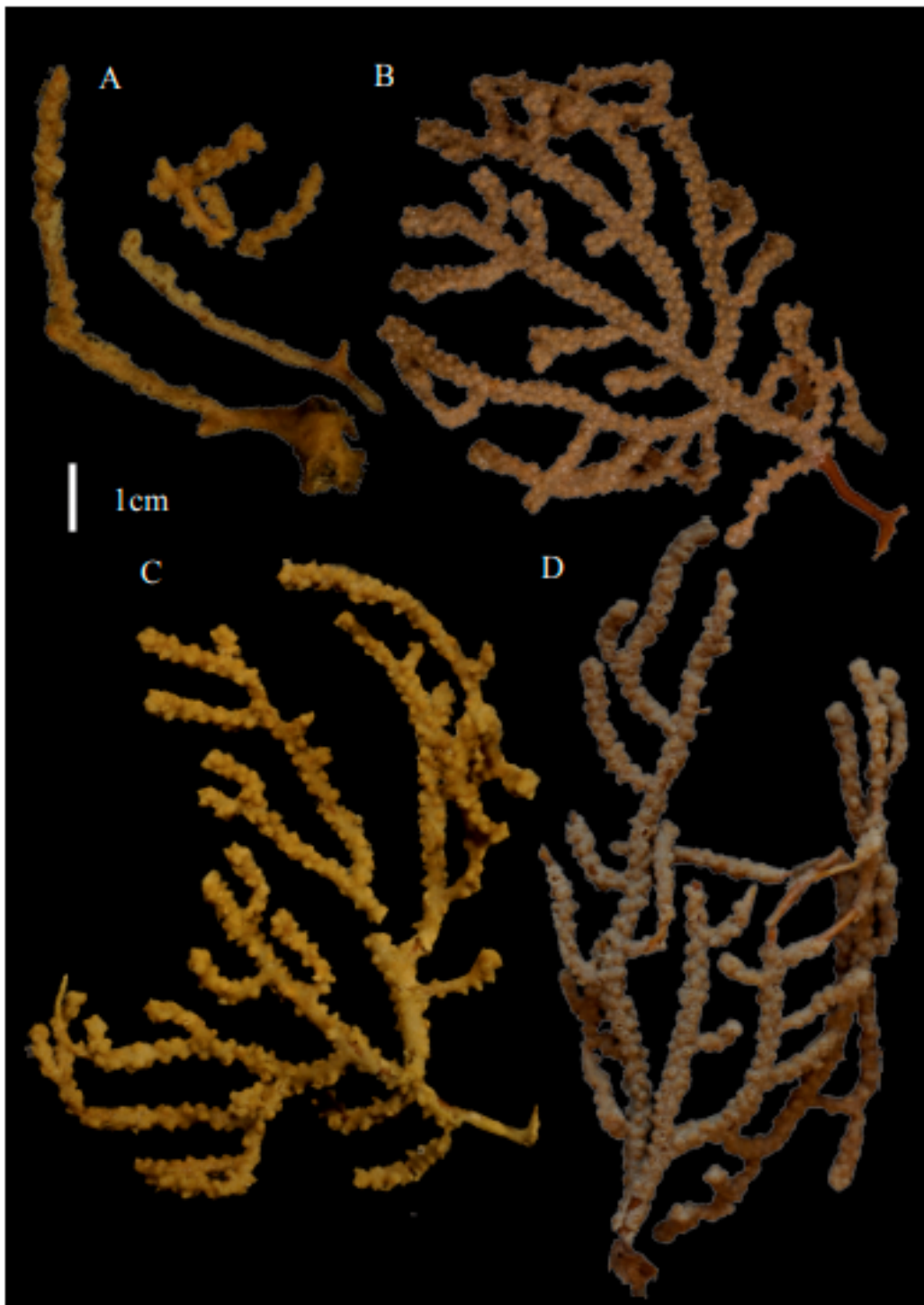


Figure 41. Colonies: (A) *Pseudoparacis japonica* holotype of *Placogorgia japonica* USNM30096, (B) *P. japonica* paratype of *Placogorgia japonica* USNM 43128, (C) *P. japonica* paratype of *Placogorgia japonica* USNM43117, (D) *P. japonica* holotype of *Pseudothesea foliata* UPSZTY2154 (UJZM57).

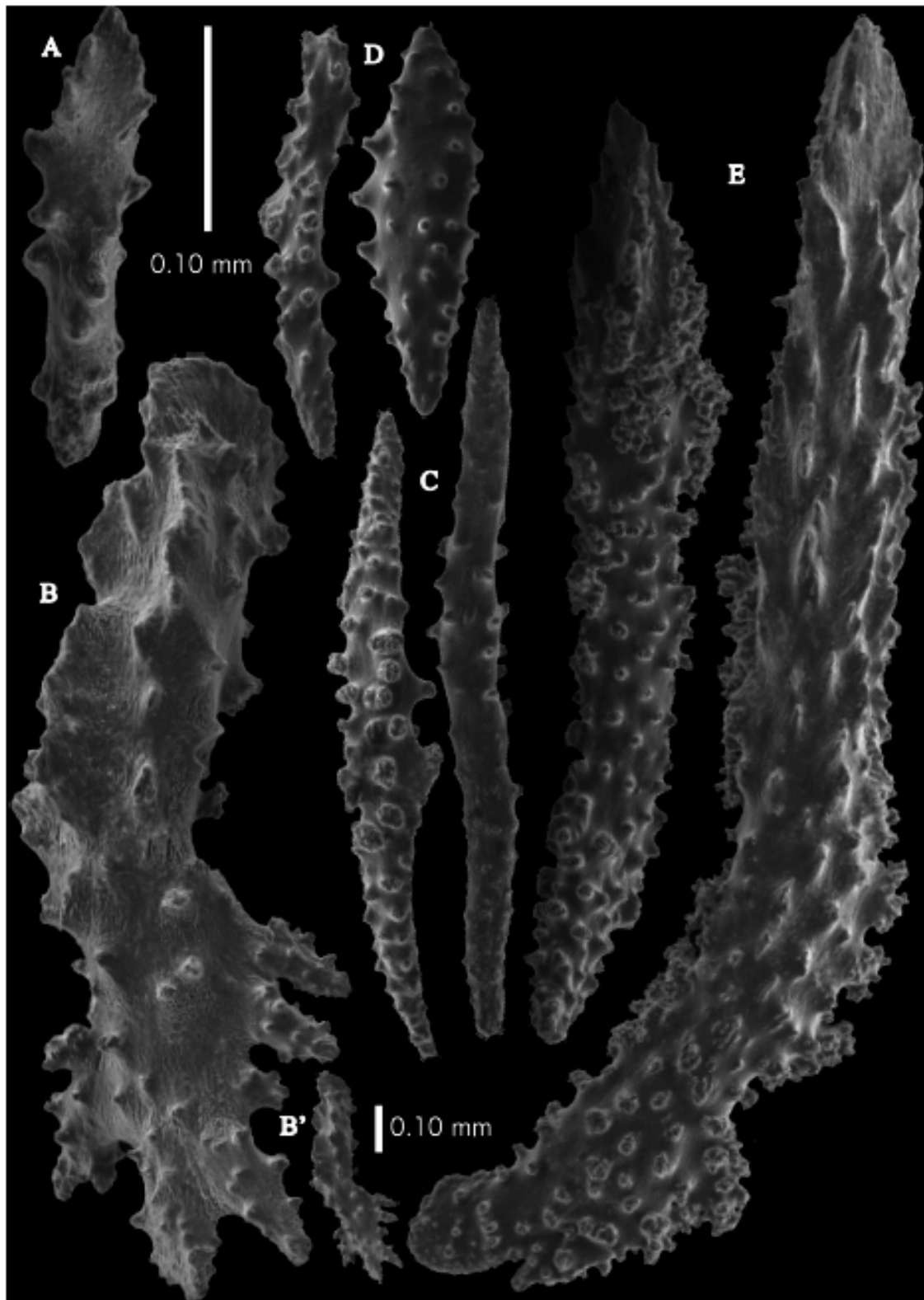


Figure 42. *Pseudoparacis japonica* paratype of *Placogorgia japonica* USNM43128: (A) tentacle spindles, (B,B') calycular thornscales, (C) collaret spindles of polyps, (D) interior coenenchymal spindles, (E) point spindles of polyps.

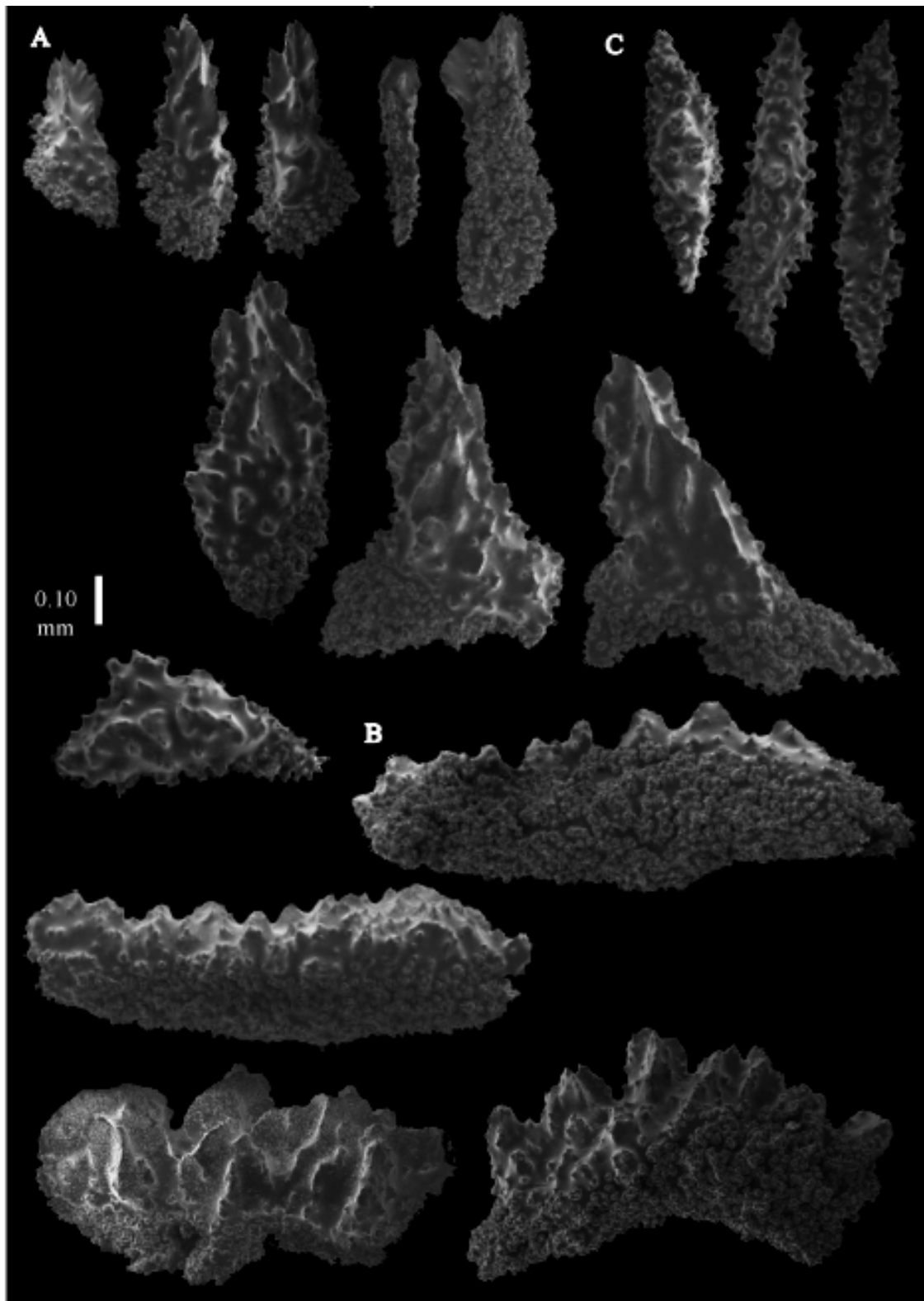


Figure 43. *Pseudoparacis japonica* paratype of *Placogorgia japonica* USNM43128: (A) calycular thorn-scales, (B) coenenchyme plates, (C) interior coenenchymal spindles.

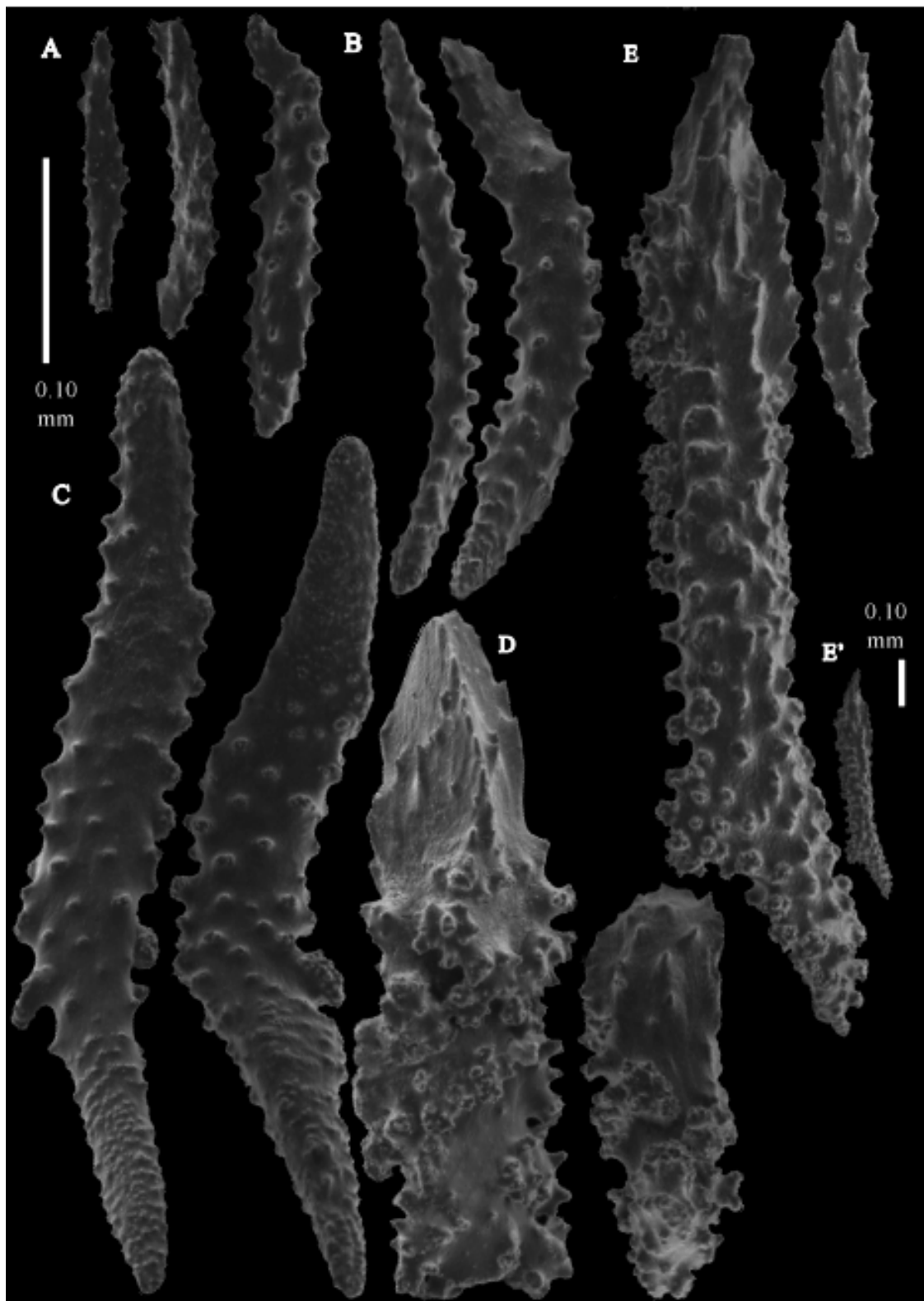


Figure 44. *Pseudoparacis japonica*, holotype of *Pseudothesea foliata* UPSZTY2154 (UUZM57): (A) tentacle spindles, (B) interior coenenchymal spindles, (C) collaret spindles of polyps, (D) calycular thornscales, (E,E') point spindles of polyps.

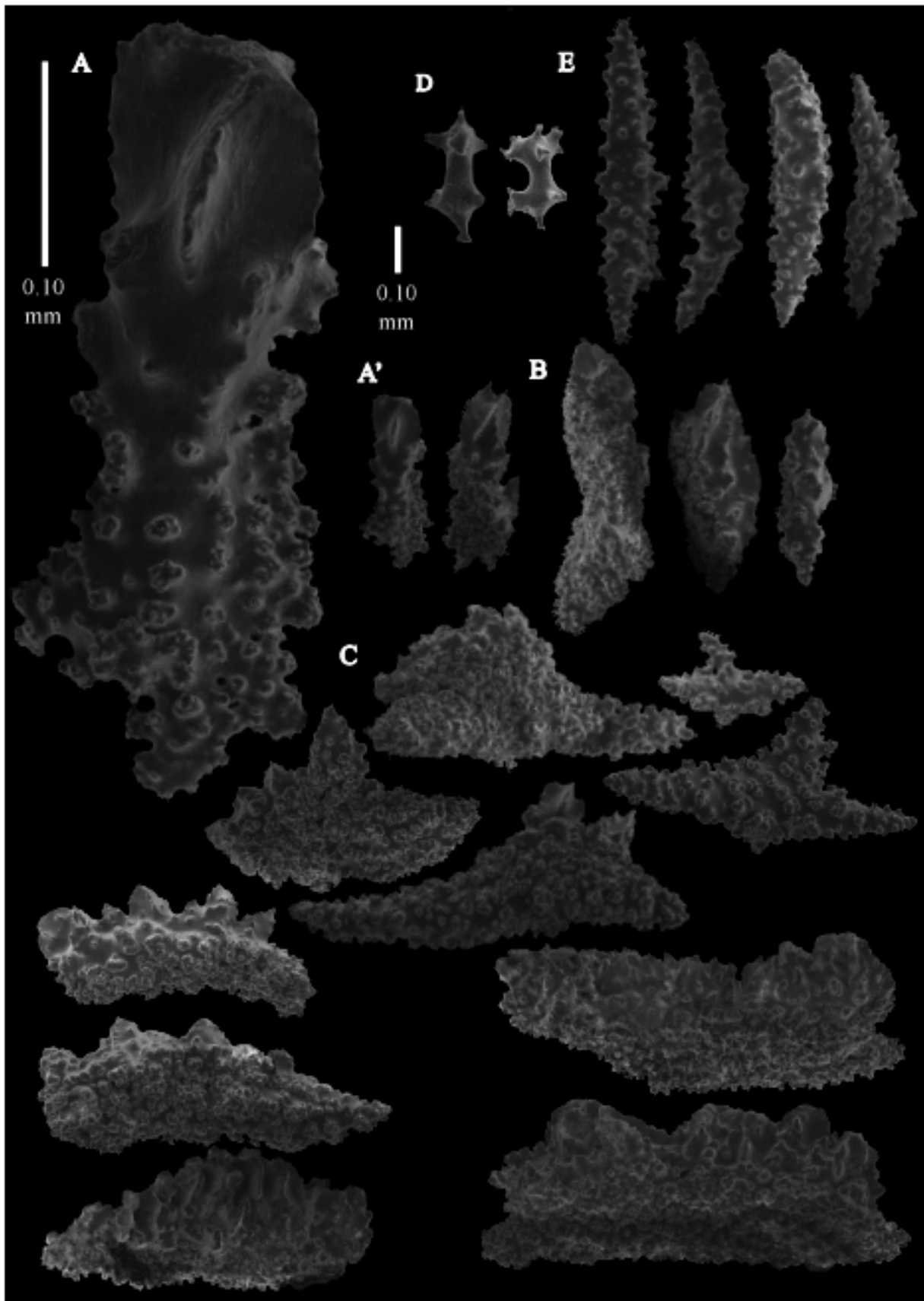


Figure 45. *Pseudoparacis japonica*, holotype of *Pseudothesea foliata* UPSZTY2154 (UUZM57): (A,A',B) calycular thornscales, (C) coenenchyme plates, (D,E) interior coenenchymal spindles.

Placogorgia japonica Nutting, 1912: 83, pl. 13 Figure 1, 1a, pl. 21 Figure 2 (Ose Saki, Sata Misaki); Kükenthal, 1924: 211.

Discogorgia japonica Kükenthal 1919: 760.

Pseudothesea foliata Aurivillius, 1931: 182, Figure 35, pl. 4 Figure 1 (HongKong).

Material examined. Paratypes of *Placogorgia japonica* Nutting, 1912, **USNM43128** *Alb*-USFC/A4933, Sata Misaki Cape, Osumi Strait, Kagoshima Prefecture, Kyushu Isl. Japan, North Pacific Ocean, 30.9833° N, 130.497° E, depth 278 m, Northwestern Pacific Expedition, tangle swabs, 16 August 1906; **USNM43117** *Alb*-USFC/A4936, Kagoshima Gulf, Sata Misaki Cape, Osumi Strait, Kagoshima Prefecture, Kyushu Isl. Japan, North Pacific Ocean, 30.9111° N, 130.625° E, depth 188 m, Northwestern Pacific Expedition, Trawl–Agassiz beam, 9 ft, 16 Aug. 1906; holotype of *Pseudothesea foliata* Aurivillius, 1931, **UPSZTY2154 (UUZM57)**, 50 mile North of Hong Kong. Depth 60 m, coll. J. Petersen. Previously unidentified material: **AKM201** Okinawa, *R/V Tansei-maru* cruise, KT02-03, st.E5-2, 19 April 2002; **AKM202** same data as AKM00201; **RMNH.COEL.47989 (AKM551)** Off Takato, Tachibana-ura, Otsuki, Tosa, Japan, 132°48.06' E, 32°43.08' N–132°47.68' E, 32°43.12' N, *F/B Kiryo-maru*, st.3, depth 84.75–83.1 m, 7 October 2004; **RMNH.COEL.47990 (AKM552)** Off Takato, Tachibana-ura, Otsuki, Tosa, Japan, 132°48.06' E, 32°43.08' N–132°47.68' E, 32°43.12' N, *Kiryo-maru*, st.3, depth 84.75–83.1 m, 7 October 2004; **RMNH.COEL.47991 (AKM1489)** West of Chichijima Is. Ogasawara Isls. Japan, 142°07.166' E–142°07.251' E, 27°02.942' N–27°02.948' N, depth 138–136 m, *R/V Tansei-maru* cruise, KT09-02, st. TW02-04, coll.A.K. Matsumoto, 19 March 2009.

Re-description. Paratype colony (USNM 43128) 9.7 cm high and 6.8 cm wide, branched in one plane (Figure 41B). Calyces conical, about 1.5 mm high and wide, present on all sides on the end branches, on thicker branches more to one side, often less than 4 mm apart. Polyps with collaret and points (Figure 36B). Point sclerites are bent spindles (Figure 42E), up to 0.45 mm long, with lower part with simple tubercles, and spiny upper part. Collaret with bent spindles (Figure 42C), up to 0.40 mm long, with simple tubercles, most pronounced in the middle. Tentacles with rods (Figure 42A), up to 0.20 mm long, with simple tubercles. Calyces with thornscales (Figure 42B,B' and Figure 43A), 0.3–0.5 mm long. Lower part with complex tubercles, upper part rather blunt-ended distally, with simple tubercles and spines. Coenenchyme with big plates, up to 1.2 mm long (Figure 43B), with complex tubercles and outside with spines and ridges. Interior with spindles, up to 0.70 mm long, with simple tubercles (Figures 42D and 43C).

Colours. Colony and calyces brown-grey. Sclerites white.

Variation. The colony of the other paratype (USNM43117) is shown in Figure 41C.

Distribution. Kagoshima Prefecture, Ogasawara Isl., Okinawa, Pacific side of Japan, Northwest Pacific.

Remarks. The condition of the specimen of the holotype (USNM30096) was not suitable for examination (Figure 41A), so we describe paratype USNM43128 (Figure 41B). We examined the holotype of *Pseudothesea foliata* Aurivillius 1931 (UPSZTY2154 (UUZM57), Figures 36C, 41D, 44 and 45) and synonymised it as *Pseudoparacis japonica*, the most common *Pseudoparacis* species in Japanese waters.

***Pseudoparacis tanseii* sp. nov.**

(Figures 36D,E and Figures 46–50)

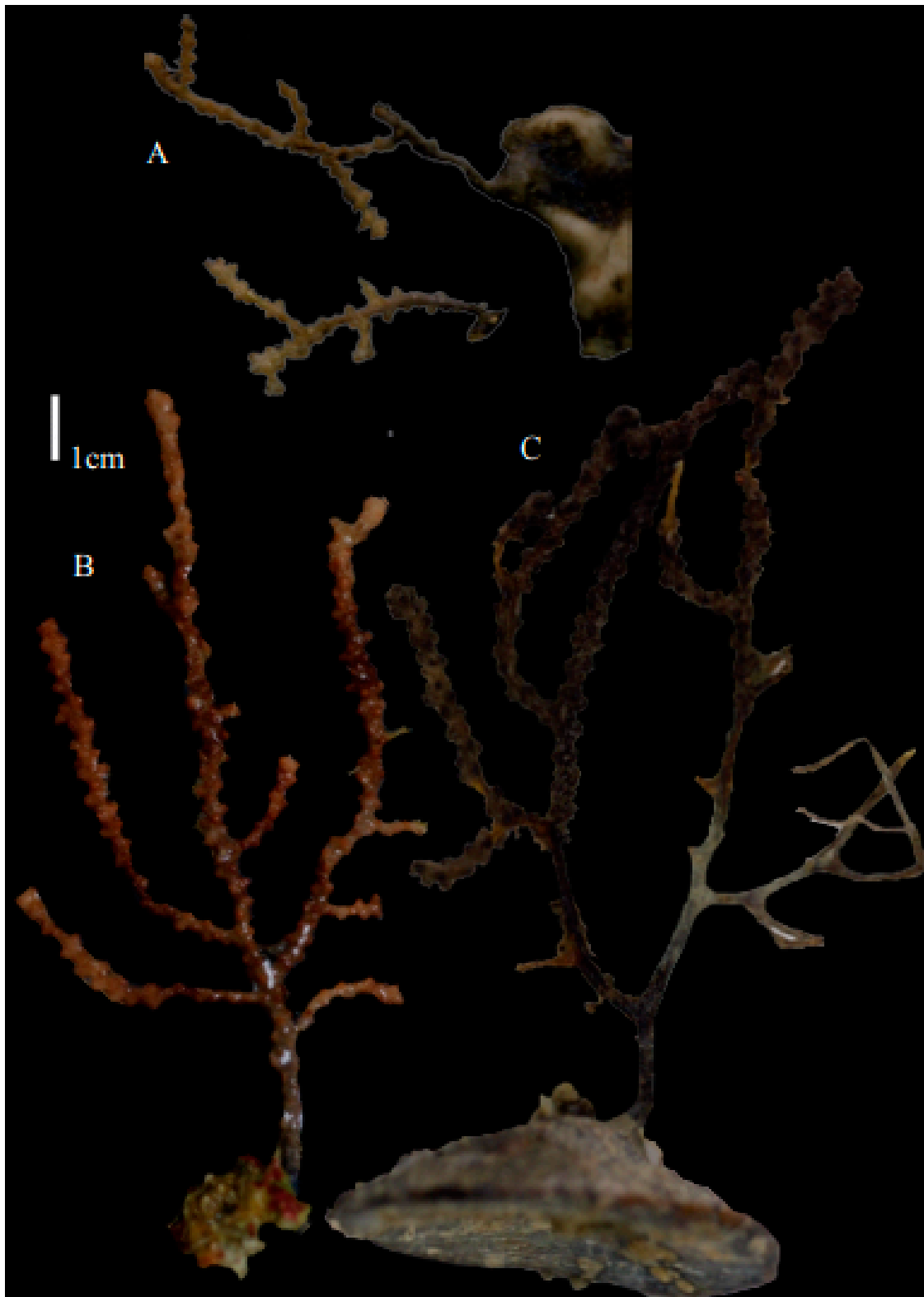


Figure 46. Colonies: (A) *Pseudoparacis tanseii* n. sp. holotype RMNH.COEL.47992 (AKM750), (B) *P. tanseii* n. sp. paratype RMNH.COEL.47993 (AKM1478), (C) *P. tanseii* n. sp. paratype RMNH.COEL.47994 (AKM589).

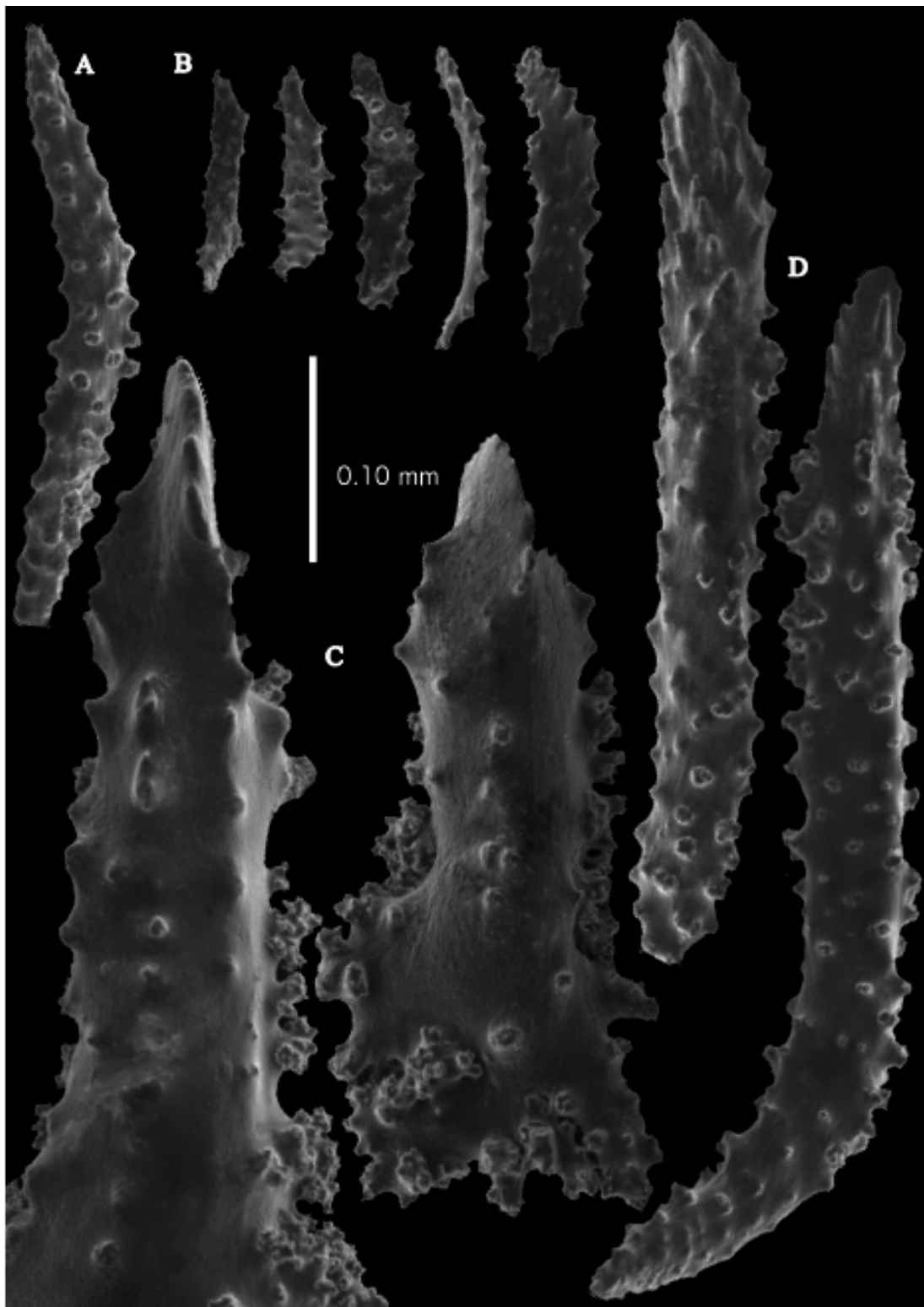


Figure 47. *Pseudoparacis tanseii* n. sp. holotype RMNH.COEL.47992 (AKM750): (A) collaret spindles of polyps, (B) tentacle spindles, (C) calycular thornscales, (D) point spindles of polyps.

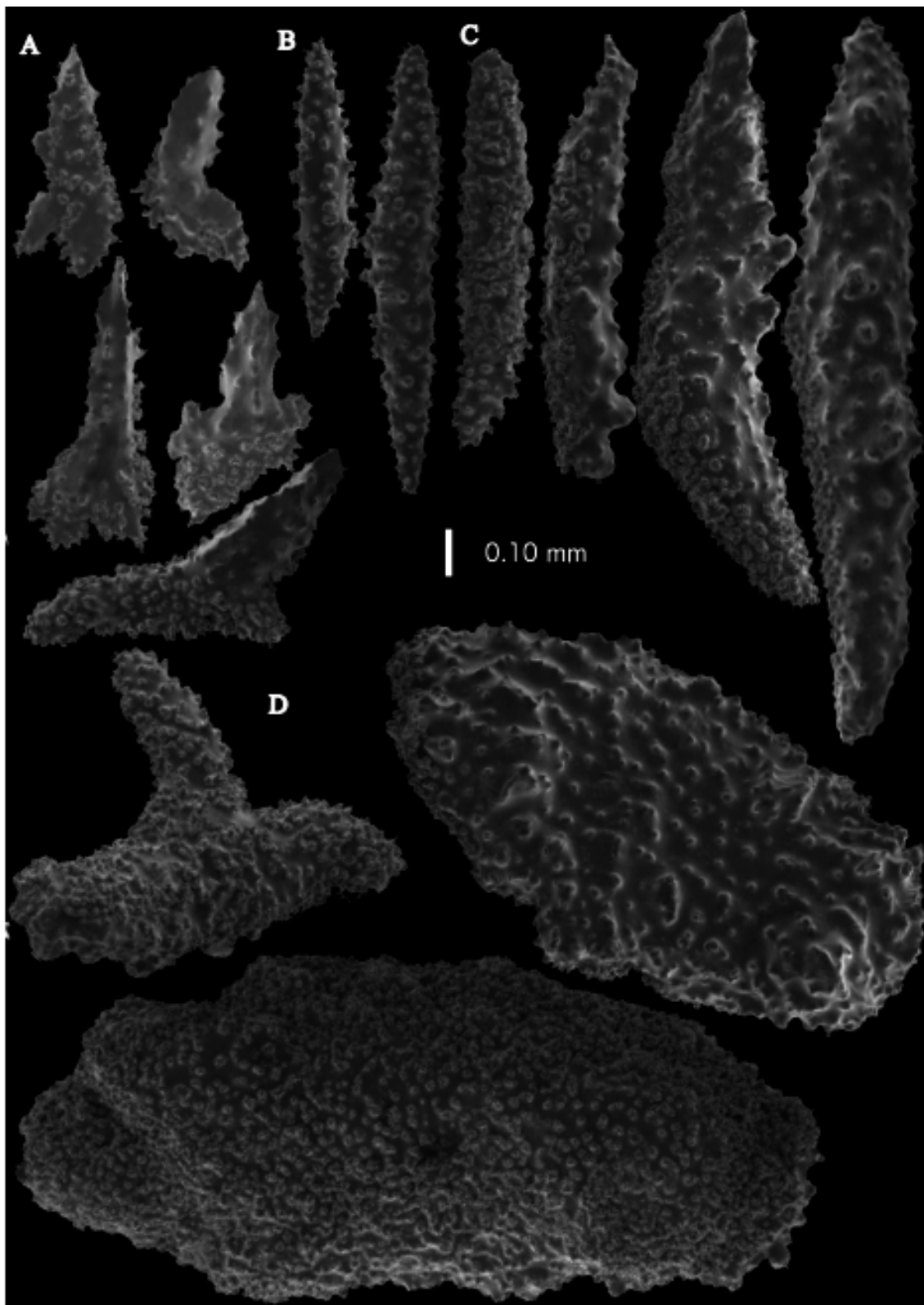


Figure 48. *Pseudoparacis tanseii* n. sp. holotype RMNH.COEL.47992 (AKM750): (A) calycular thornscales, (B) interior coenenchymal spindles, (C) coenenchyme spindles, (D) coenenchyme plates.

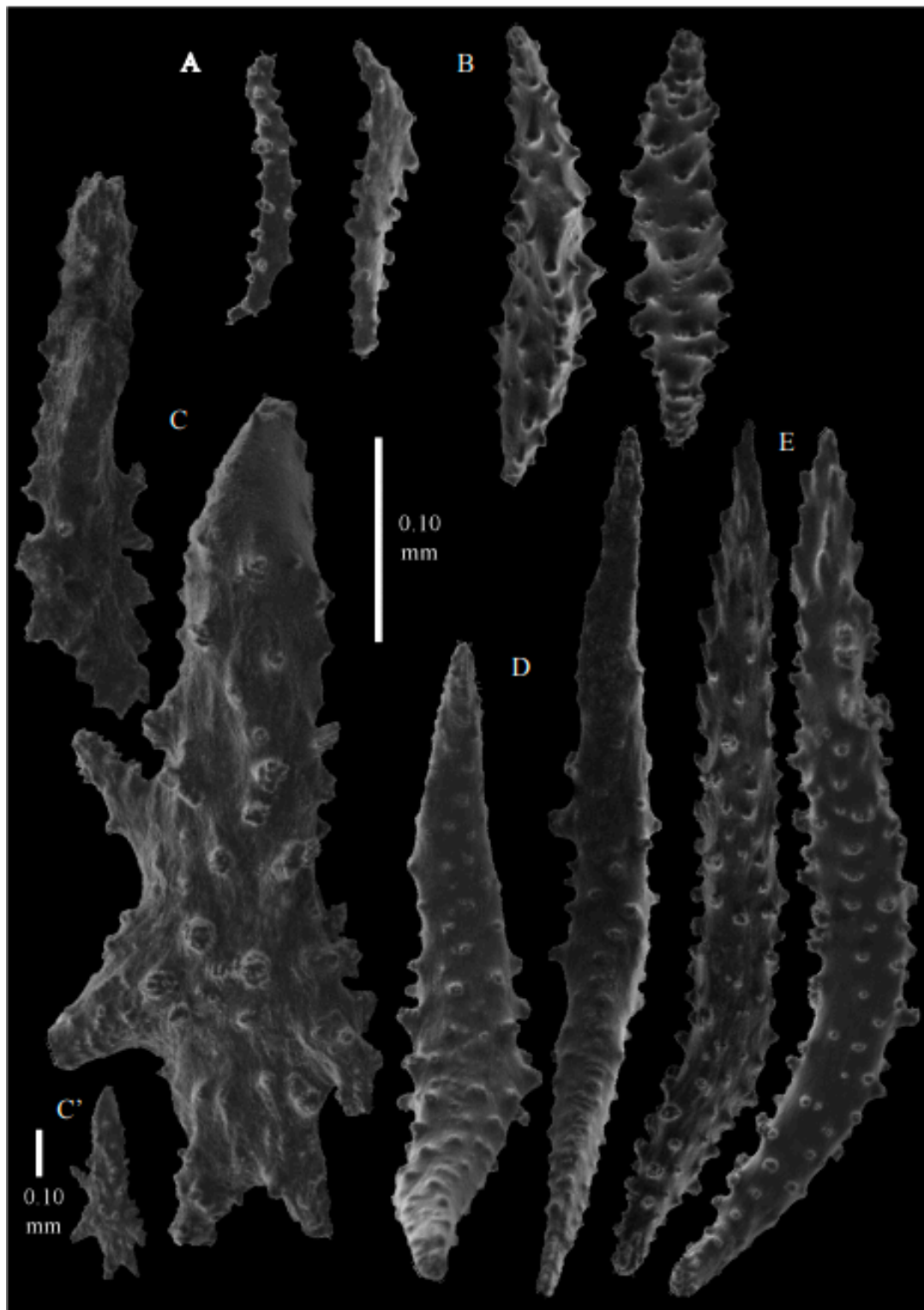


Figure 49. *Pseudoparacis tanseii* n. sp. paratype RMNH.COEL.47995 (AKM1478): (A) tentacle spindles, (B) interior coenenchymal spindles, (C,C') calycular thornscales, (D) collaret spindles of polyps, (E) point spindles of polyps.

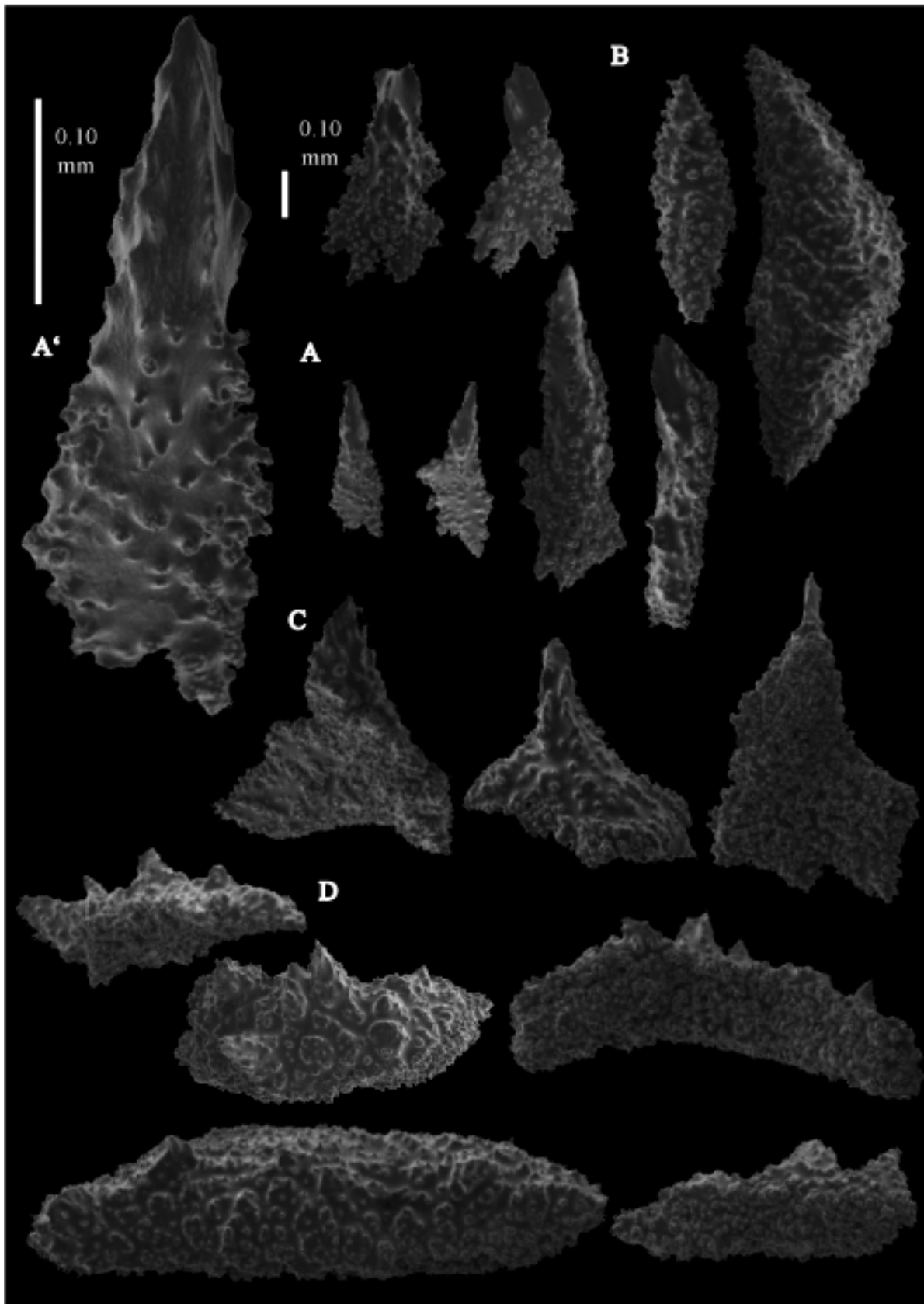


Figure 50. *Pseudoparacis tanseii* n. sp. paratype RMNH.COEL.47995(AKM1478): (A,A') calycular thornscales, (B) coenenchyme spindles, (C,D) coenenchyme plates.

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NOT *Discogorgia dendritica*: Utinomi 1961: 203–204, Figure 3; pl. VII, Figure 4 (SMBL-Cni1069).

Material examined. Holotype **RMNH.COEL.47992 (AKM750)**, larger colony) off Satamisaki Cape, Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan, 30-56.0025 N, 130-44.2299 E–30-56.2953 N, 130-43.3981 E, depth 116–120 m, *R/V Tansei-maru* cruise KT07-1, st. SM-1, specimen.32, Chain Bag Dredge. Obtained 23 July 2007, coll. A.K. Matsumoto; paratypes **RMNH.COEL.47993 (AKM750)**, smaller colony) same data as holotype; **RMNH.COEL.47994 (AKM589)**, Off Minabe, Wakayama prefecture, Japan, Northwest Pacific, depth ca.40 m, Gill-net, coll. A.K. Matsumoto, 22 March 2005; **RMNH.COEL.47995 (AKM1478)** West of Chichijima Is. Ogasawara Isls. Japan. 142°07.466' E–142°07.489' E, 27°01.371' N–27°01.344' N, depth 135–136 m, *R/V Tansei-maru* cruise, KT09-02, st.TW01-02, 3. 19 March 2009, coll. A.K. Matsumoto; other material **SMBL-Cni1069** previously identified as *Discogorgia dendritica*, 23 km west of Setozaki cape, depth 80–150 m, *RV Kaiun-maru*, coll. H. Harada, 28 November 1957, two specimens.

Description. Holotype (RMNH.COEL.47992 (AKM750)) 6 cm high and 3 cm wide, branched in one plane (Figure 46A). Calyces conical, about 1.3 mm high and wide, present on three sides of the colony, often less than 1.5 mm apart. Polyps with collaret and points (Figure 36D). Point sclerites are bent spindles (Figure 47D), up to 0.50 mm long, with lower part with simple tubercles, and spiny upper part. Collaret with bent spindles (Figure 47A), up to 0.30 mm long, with simple tubercles, most pronounced in the middle. Tentacles with rods (Figure 47B), up to 0.15 mm long, with simple tubercles. Calyces with thornscales (Figures 47C and 48A), 0.4–0.6 mm long. Lower part with complex tubercles, upper part with simple tubercles and spines. Coenenchyme with big plates arranged longitudinally, up to 1.8 mm long (Figure 48D) and spindles up to 1.6 mm long (Figure 48C), all with complex tubercles and an outer side with rounded elevations, smaller plates sometimes with outer spines. The size of coenenchyme sclerites extends over a wide range. Several of the spindles are branched (Figure 48D). Interior with spindles, up to 1 mm long, with simple or complex tubercles (Figure 4B).

Colours. Live colony pale brown (Figure 46A, RMNH.COEL.47992 (AKM750)) or pale reddish-brown with polyps which are purplish brown (Figures 46B, 49 and 50, RMNH.COEL.47995 (AKM1478)). After death, its colour turned dark (Figure 46C, RMNH.COEL.47994 (AKM589)). Anthocodial sclerites colourless, coenenchymal sclerites white.

Variation. *Discogorgia dendritica* (Nutting, 1910) in Utinomi 1961 [18] (SMBL Cni1069) could be this species with the flattened rods in tentacles, thornscales with wide foliaceous projections, and the coenenchyme plates mostly thorny spindles. Calyces are arranged in four longitudinal rows, not in three sides of branches.

Distribution. Kagoshima, Wakayama Prefectures, Ogasawara Isl., Pacific side of Japan, Northwest Pacific.

Etymology. The species is named after the *R/V Tansei-maru*.

Remarks. The species is closest to *P. spinifera* but differs in having coenenchymal plates with rounded elevations and thornscales with blunt spines. The two other species, *P. japonica* and *P. spinifera*, have polyps distributed all around the branches, but this species has them only on three sides.

***Pseudoparacis erythraeensis* (Stiasny, 1938)**

Discogorgia erythraeensis Stiasny, 1938:339 (Gulf of Suez); Stiasny 1959: 53, fig.C, pl. 6 Figures 24–27; Grasshoff, M. 2000: 65–67, Figures 110–115.

Remarks. We decided that *Discogorgia erythraeensis* has to be moved to the genus *Pseudoparacis* gen. nov. as it has thornscales in the calyces which are not present in *Discogorgia* (see Grasshoff, 2000 [19]: p. 65–67). Molecular phylogenetics also confirmed that *D. erythraeensis* in McFadden et al. [7] is not close to our newly collected *Discogorgia* spp. or to *Euplexaura* but is instead close to the group with thornscales, (i.e., *Placogorgia*) (personal communication: Cathy McFadden, 2 July 2021, 17 April 2023). *D. erythraeensis* only fits the description of *Pseudoparacis* gen. nov.; currently, there are no other possibilities, although the other species of the genus *Pseudoparacis* gen. nov. occurred in the North Pacific Ocean. The sclerites may need additional SEM analysis since the drawings of Grasshoff [19] are a bit schematic.

Genus PSEUDOTHESEA Kükenthal, 1919

Type of the genus: *Pseudothesea placoderma* (Nutting, 1910).

Thesea (Indo-Pacific) Nutting, 1910, Siboga Exped. Monogr. 13b: 76.

Pseudothesea Kükenthal 1919, *Ergebn. deutschen Tiefsee-Exped.* 13(2): 843. (Type species, *Thesea placoderma* Nutting, by original designation).

Placogorgia Bayer 1959: 55 (*Pseudothesea placoderma* = *Placogorgia atlantica*).

Pseudothesea Bayer 1981: 927 (Key and footnote).

Diagnosis. Colonies richly branched in one plane. Polyps situated all around the end branches, on thicker branches more to one side, or on three sides of the end branches. Coenenchyme with surface layer of unilaterally spinose spindles/plates on three sides, the other side with larger and longer spiny spindles/plates tiled as a mosaic. Below these big sclerites lie smaller ones. Calyces cylindrical, with thornscales. Calyces and polyp-side coenenchyme surface look spiny. Polyps with collaret and points, tentacles with dragon wing scales. Sclerites colourless.

Remarks. Kükenthal [2] established the genus *Pseudothesea* with *Thesea placoderma* Nutting 1910 as its type species. Bayer [8] wrote, “the character of its calicular thornscales leaves no doubt that *Thesea placoderma* is congeneric with *Placogorgia atlantica* Wright and Studer.” He made the key for *Placogorgia atlantica* (including *Thesea placoderma*) as follows “Cortical spindles small, usually not exceeding a length of 0.5 mm, without a row of prominent external spines [8]: Figure 11b. Thorn-scales 0.5 mm long, spine 0.3 mm, sharp and aculeate [8]: Figure 11a)”. He synonymised *Pseudothesea* Kükenthal, 1919 as the genus *Placogorgia* Studer, 1887 (Bayer [8]). However, he did not mention which specimen he examined for the [8]: Figure 11a,b in his paper.

Grasshoff 1977 [20]: p. 26 examined the type specimen of *Placogorgia atlantica* Wright and Studer (St. Paul’s Rocks) and wrote that “it has, as Bayer emphasised [8], only a few spindles in the coenenchyme and they are normal spindles, so it largely lacks a generic character of *Placogorgia*. The species does not seem to have been found again. However, there can be no doubt that Deichmann’s [21]: p.145 specimens determined as *Echinomuricea atlantica* Johnson are identical to the type species *P. atlantica* Wright and Studer. The colonies (checked: MCZ No. 4652, 4660, 5837 =? 4655) show the same structure and sclerites as the type specimen in the British Museum, only having more thornspindles in the coenenchyme than the type...(continued)” [translated from German].

The last to discuss the genus was Bayer [13] in his key to the genera. In his footnote 15, he stated, “Although I have previously synonymised this genus with *Placogorgia* (Bayer, 1959), it seems to be generically distinct, at least from the type-species of that genus. It may however, be impossible to distinguish it from *Paracis*, from which it was distinguished by Kükenthal [3] on the basis of having sclerites of very diverse form, including strongly spinose, unilateral thorn-scales, but these occur in both *Pseudothesea* and *Paracis*.” Bayer mentions for *Placogorgia* “Coenenchymal sclerites not conspicuously large, projecting spines of only infrequent occurrence”, and for *Pseudothesea* “Coenenchymal sclerites thick, coarse spindles or plates with one to several strong, projecting spines” [13].

We examined the type material of *Pseudothesea placoderma* from the SIBOGA expedition (type ZMA Coel. 3569, BMNH1925.07.25.013 and non-type ZMA Coel. 3570) in detail. However, we did not have a chance to examine the type of *Placogorgia atlantica* and Deichmann's [20]: p. 145 specimens (MCZ Nr. 4652, 4660, 5837=?4655 [20]). The drawing of sclerites in Bayer [8] shows that the coenenchyme sclerites of *P. atlantica* [8]: Figure 11b are not identical to *P. placoderma* [8]: Figure 14a,b, especially the spiny outer coenenchyme sclerites. It is also different from the sclerites in the original Wright and Studer *P. atlantica* (1989: PL. XXVII. Figure 2 [22]).

We conclude that Bayer's ideas about *Paracis* were based on his description of a specimen identified by him as *Paracis orientalis* (Ridley, 1882) from Bikini Atoll (Bayer [10]: USNM44078) and may also be affected by a specimen identified by him as "*Paracis*" *placoderma* from Japanese waters (USNM91880, one of the paratype specimens of *Acanthogorgia paradoxa* Nutting 1912; note: the other specimens of the type actually belong to the genus *Acanthogorgia* and USNM30129, USNM30130, USNM30131). Bayer never checked the type materials of *Neoacis orientalis*, *P. atlantica*, and *P. placoderma*. He must have based his description on that of Ridley [12] which was rather confusing and gave the impression the coenenchymal sclerites had spines. Later on, (1996) Grasshoff [15] did examine the type of *Neoacis orientalis* in order to describe his *P. caecilia* from New Caledonia, but he did not provide any images of the coenenchymal sclerites of *N. orientalis*.

We re-examined the types of *N. orientalis* and *P. placoderma* and presented images of their sclerites. From that, it became obvious that the coenenchymal sclerites of *N. orientalis* have no spines but are merely protuberances with tubercles, and the outer side of these spindles have rounded tubercles, a character also not seen in *Pseudothesea*.

We assume that all species from the Indo-Pacific with big unilaterally spinose spindles/plates in the coenenchyme belong to *Pseudothesea* and not to *Placogorgia* or *Neoacis* (*Paracis*). McFadden et al. [7] mentioned that no or only limited molecular data are available to confirm the phylogenetic affinities of *Pseudothesea* Kükenthal, 1919.

Key to the species (three species)

1. Collaret spindles with complex tubercles *Pseudothesea placoderma* (Nutting, 1910);
-. Collaret spindles with simple tubercles.
 2. Coenenchyme with unilaterally spinose spindles with complex tubercles *P. satsumaensis* sp. nov.;
-. Coenenchyme with unilaterally spinose spindles with complex tubercles and rounded elevations with prickles *P. tokaraensis* sp. nov.
- Pseudothesea placoderma* (Nutting, 1910)
(Figures 51A, 52A, 53 and 54).

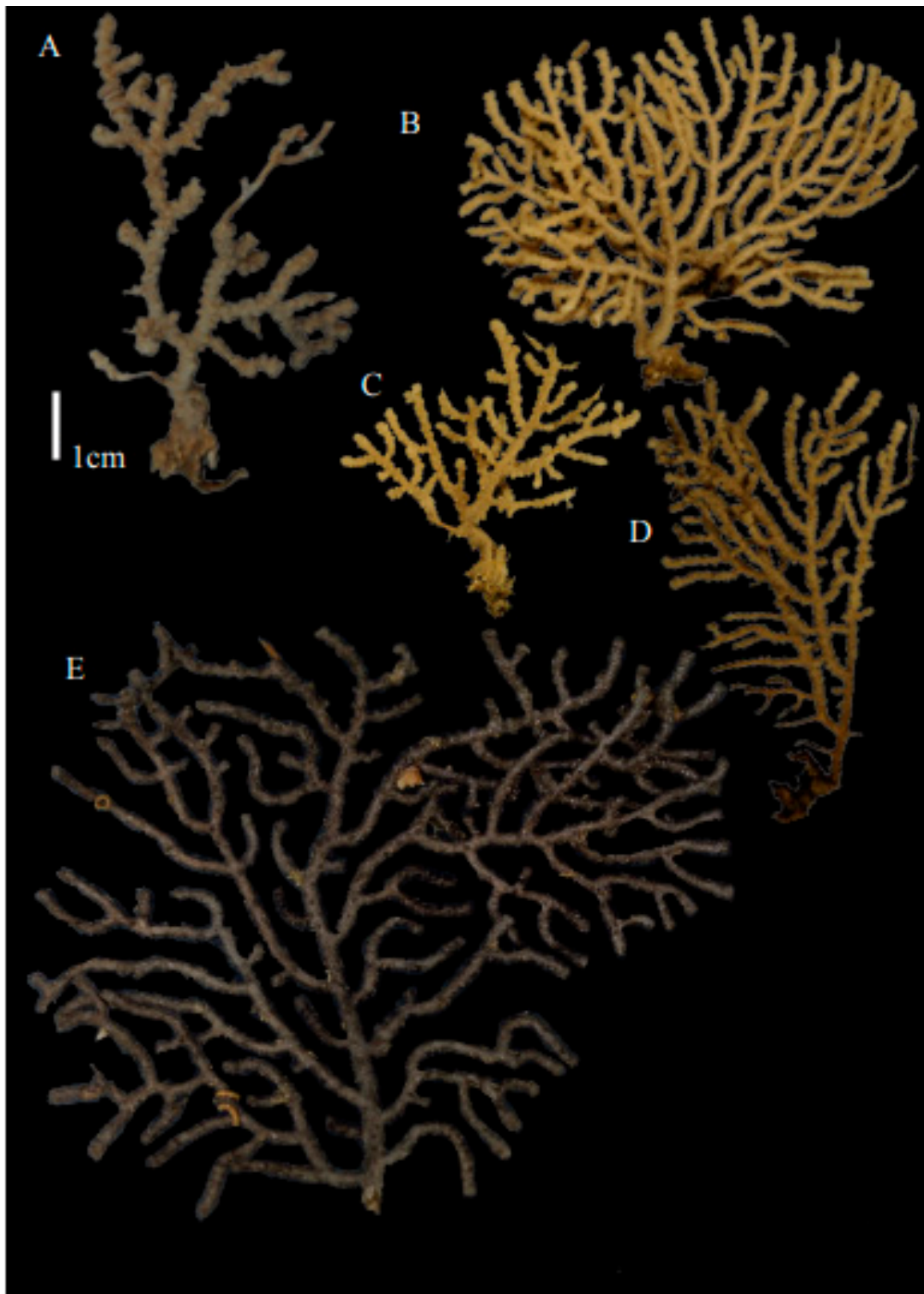


Figure 51. Colonies: (A) *Pseudothesea placoderma*, holotype of *Thesea placoderma* ZMA Coel. 3569, (B) *P. satsumaensis* n. sp. holotype USNM30129, (C) *P. satsumaensis* n. sp. paratype USNM30130, (D) *P. satsumaensis* n. sp. paratype USNM30131, (E) *P. tokaraensis* n. sp. holotype RMNH.COEL.47987(AKM797).

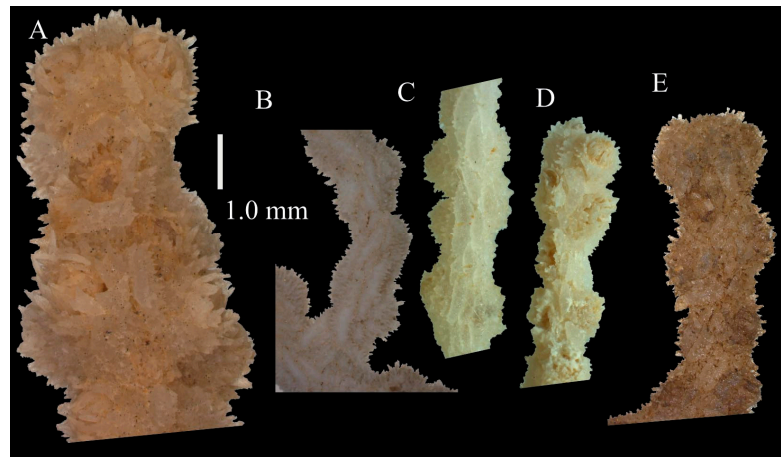


Figure 52. Polyps: (A) *Pseudothesea placoderma*, holotype of *Thesea placoderma* ZMA Coel. 3569, (B) *P. satsumaensis* n. sp. holotype USNM30129, (C) *P. satsumaensis* n. sp. paratype USNM30130, (D) *P. satsumaensis* n. sp. paratype USNM30131, (E) *P. tokaraensis* n. sp. holotype RMNH.COEL.47987(AKM797).

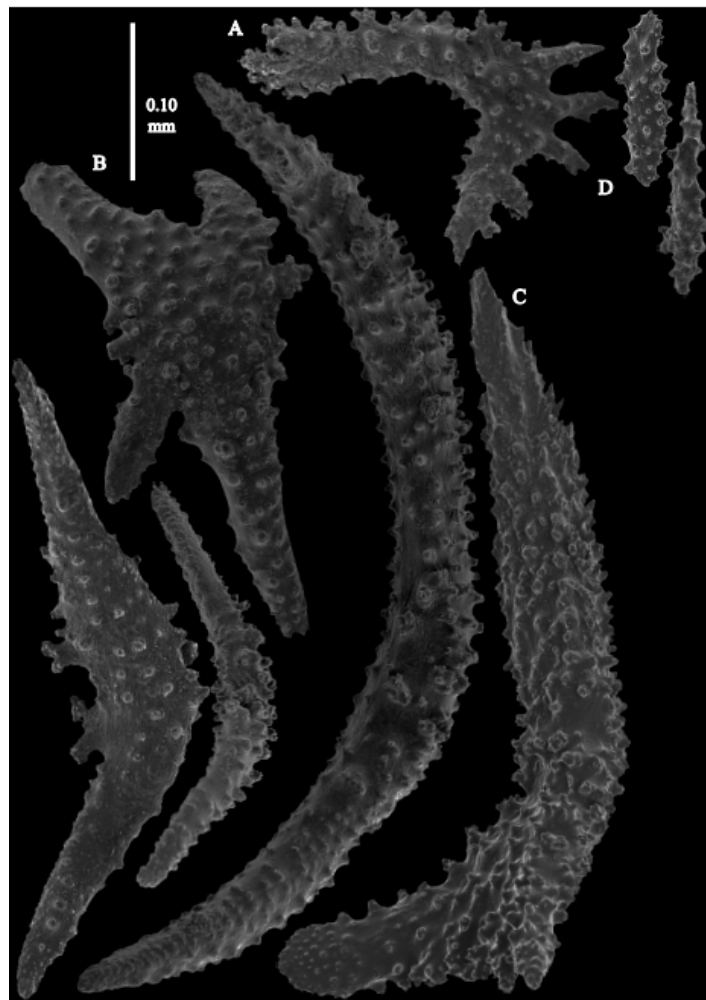


Figure 53. *Pseudothesea placoderma*, holotype of *Thesea placoderma* ZMA Coel. 3569: (A) tentacle sclerite (dragon wing), (B) collaret spindles of polyps, (C) point spindles of polyps, (D) tentacle spindles.

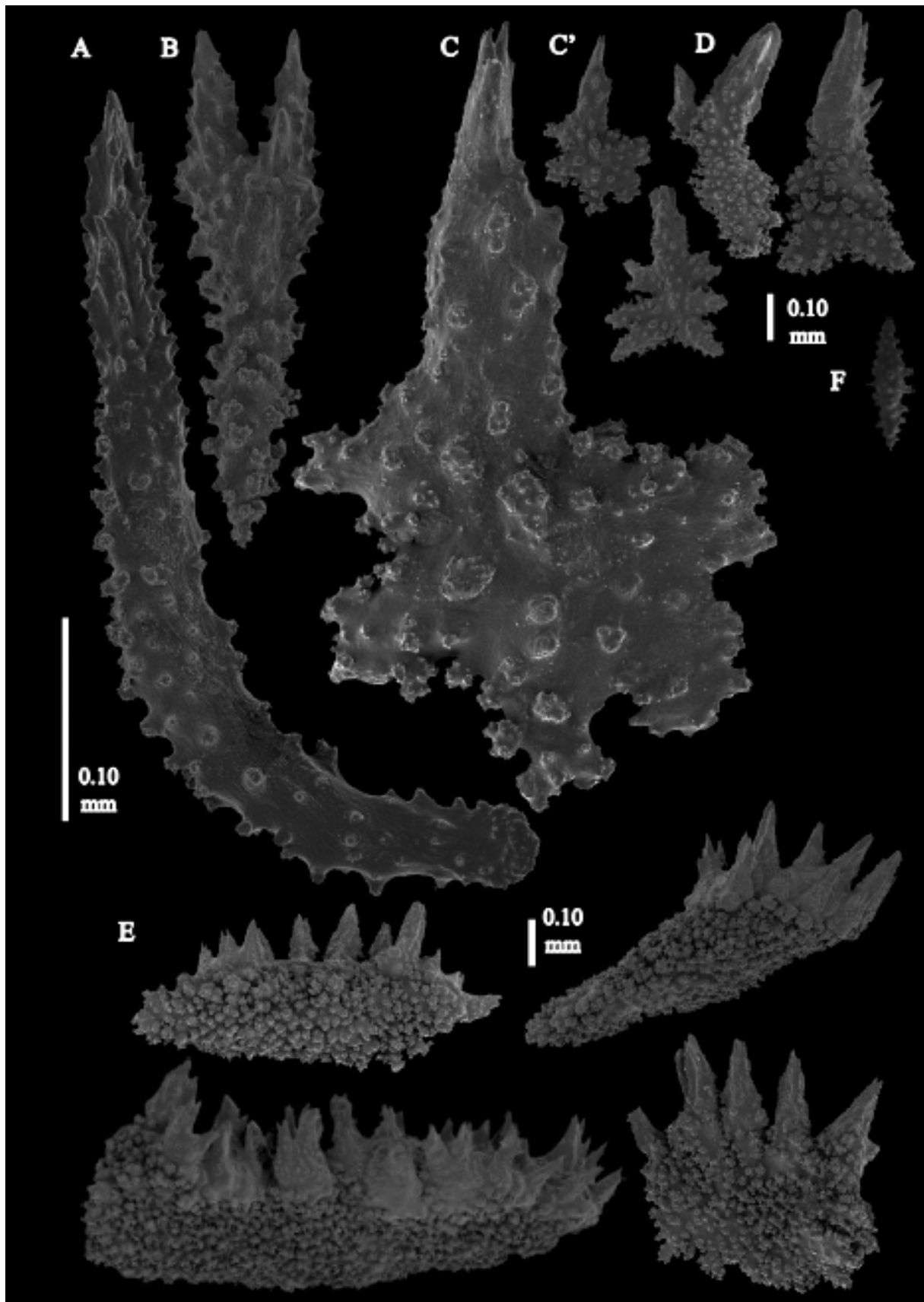


Figure 54. *Pseudothesea placoderma*, holotype of *Thesea placoderma* ZMA Coel. 3569: (A,B) point sclerites, (C,C',D) calycular thornscales, (E) coenenchyme spindles, (F) interior coenenchymal spindles.

Thesea placoderma Nutting, 1910: 54, pl. 9 Figure 3, pl. 21 Figure 2 (Flores Sea, 73 m); not *Thesea placoderma* Nutting, 1912: 6, 80. (Japan).

Pseudothesea placoderma Kükenthal, 1919: 843; 1924: 228.

Material examined. Holotype **ZMA Coel. 3569** *Thesea placoderma*, SIBOGA st.310, 8°30' S., 119°7'.5 E. Flores Sea, depth 73 m, sand, with few pieces of dead coral.; Type **BMNH1925.07.25.013** wet.

Re-description. Holotype colony (ZMA Coel. 3569) branched in one plane, 7.5 cm high and 6.4 cm wide. Calyces are present on all sides of the branches. Branch ends are swollen (Figure 51A). Calyces are conical, 1 mm high and 1.5 mm wide at their base. Polyps with collaret and points (Figure 52A). Point sclerites are bent spindles with complex tubercles and distal end spiny, and the basal end is with simple tubercles. These spindles are up to 0.46 mm long (Figures 53C and 54A). There is an occasional point sclerite bifurcates at the distal end (Figure 54B). Collaret with bent spindles, up to 0.58 mm long, middle part with complex tubercles and sometimes small side branches, ends with simple tubercles (Figure 53B). Tentacles with small spindles, up to 0.13 mm long, with simple tubercles; the largest spindles dragon-wing-shaped (Figure 53A,D). Calyces with thornscales, up to 0.57 mm long, with simple and complex tubercles (Figure 54C,D). Surface coenenchyme with unilaterally spinose spindles, up to 1.14 mm long, with complex tubercles (Figure 54E). Interior with small spindles with simple tubercles (Figure 54F).

Colours. Preserved colony pale brown, sclerites colourless.

Distribution. The species is only known from its type locality, Flores Sea.

Remarks. Only one interior sclerite was found (Figure 54F), probably because of the degraded condition of the material. Regarding *Pseudothesea*, we should keep *Neoacis* and *Pseudothesea* separate. However, *Pseudothesea* resembles the Atlantic *Placogorgia* and *Paramuricea*. We also examined non-type material, ZMA Coel. 3570 (SIBOGA Expedition, st. unknown), but it is not *P. placoderma*.

***Pseudothesea satumaensis* sp. nov.**

(Figures 51B, 52B, 55 and 56).

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NOT *Placogorgia placoderma* Bayer, 1959:55 Figure 14ab.

Material examined. Holotype **USNM30129** *Thesea placoderma* by Nutting (1912: 6), *Placogorgia placoderma* by F.M. Bayer (13 September 1958), *Alb-USFC/A4936*, Sata Misaki Lt., N.21-E, 5.7 miles, Osumi Strait, Kagoshima, Kyushu Island, Japan, 30°54'40" N (30.9111° N), 130°37'30" E (130.625° E), depth 188 m (103 fathoms), Trawl–Agassiz beam, 9 ft, 16 August 1906; paratypes **USNM30130** same data as **USNM30131** and **USNM30129**, previously identified as *Paracis placoderma* by F.M. Bayer (1 July 1994); **USNM30131** same data as **USNM30130** and **USNM30129**, previously identified as *Paracis placoderma* by F.M. Bayer (1 July 1994); **RMNH.COEL.47996 (AKM1069)** Shin-son, Danjo Isls., Japan, East China Sea, depth 204–200 m, *R/V Tansei-maru* cruise KT08-3 (OjiLeg.), GT02(1), specimen no.118, coll. A.K. Matsumoto, 7 March 2008; **RMNH.COEL.47997 (AKM1087)** Shin-son, Danjo Isls., Japan, East China Sea, depth 200–210 m, *R/V Tansei-maru* cruise KT08-3 (OjiLeg.), GT02(2), coll. A.K. Matsumoto, 7 March 2008; **RMNH.COEL.47998 (AKM1090)** Shin-son, Danjo Isls., Japan, East China Sea, depth 200–210 m, *R/V Tansei-maru* cruise KT08-3 (OjiLeg.), GT02(2), specimen no., coll. A.K. Matsumoto, 7 March 2008.

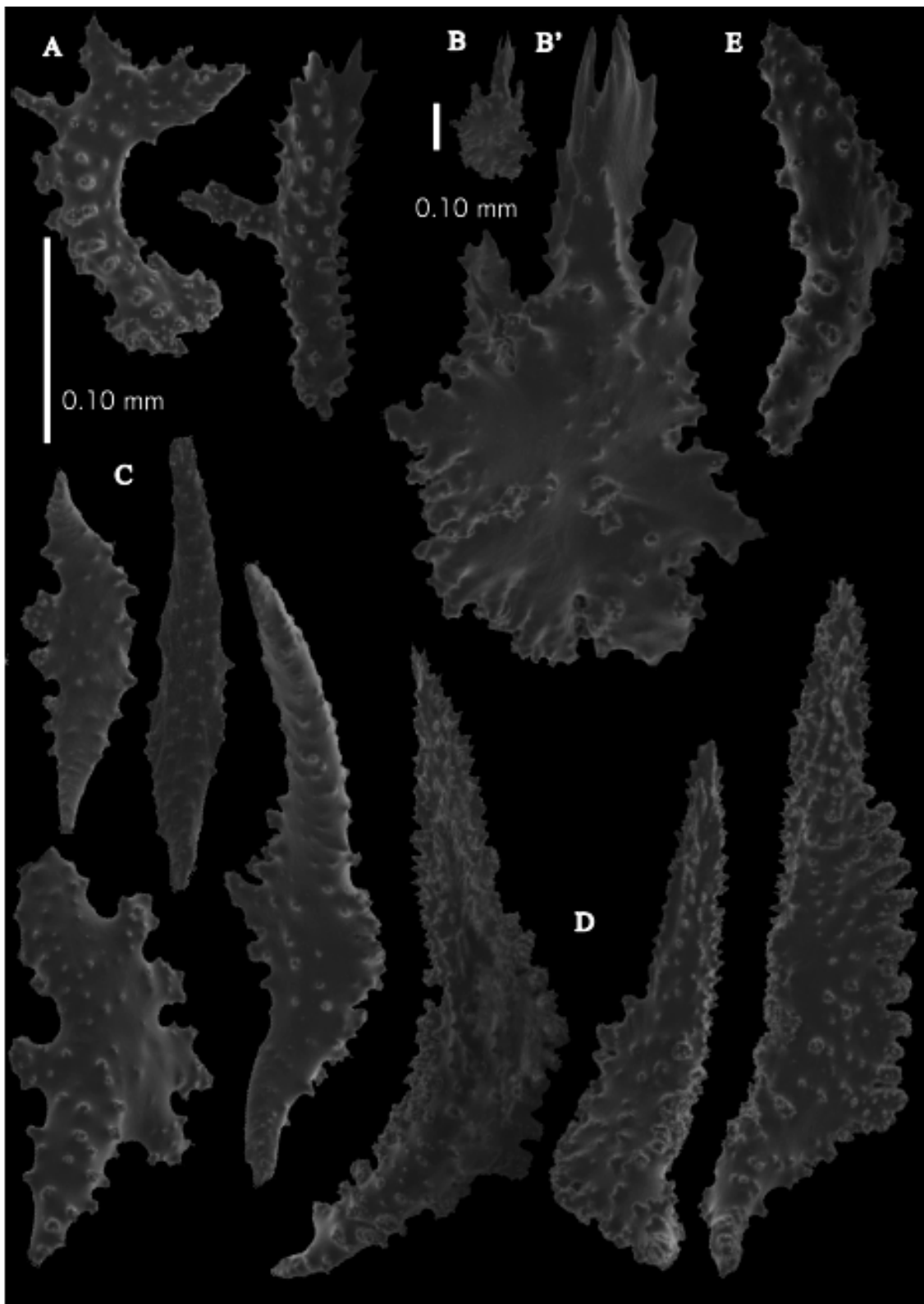


Figure 55. *Pseudothesea satsumaensis* n. sp. holotype USNM30129: (A) tentacle sclerite (dragon wing), (B,B') calycular thornscales, (C) collaret spindles of polyps, (D) point spindles of polyps, (E) tentacle spindles.

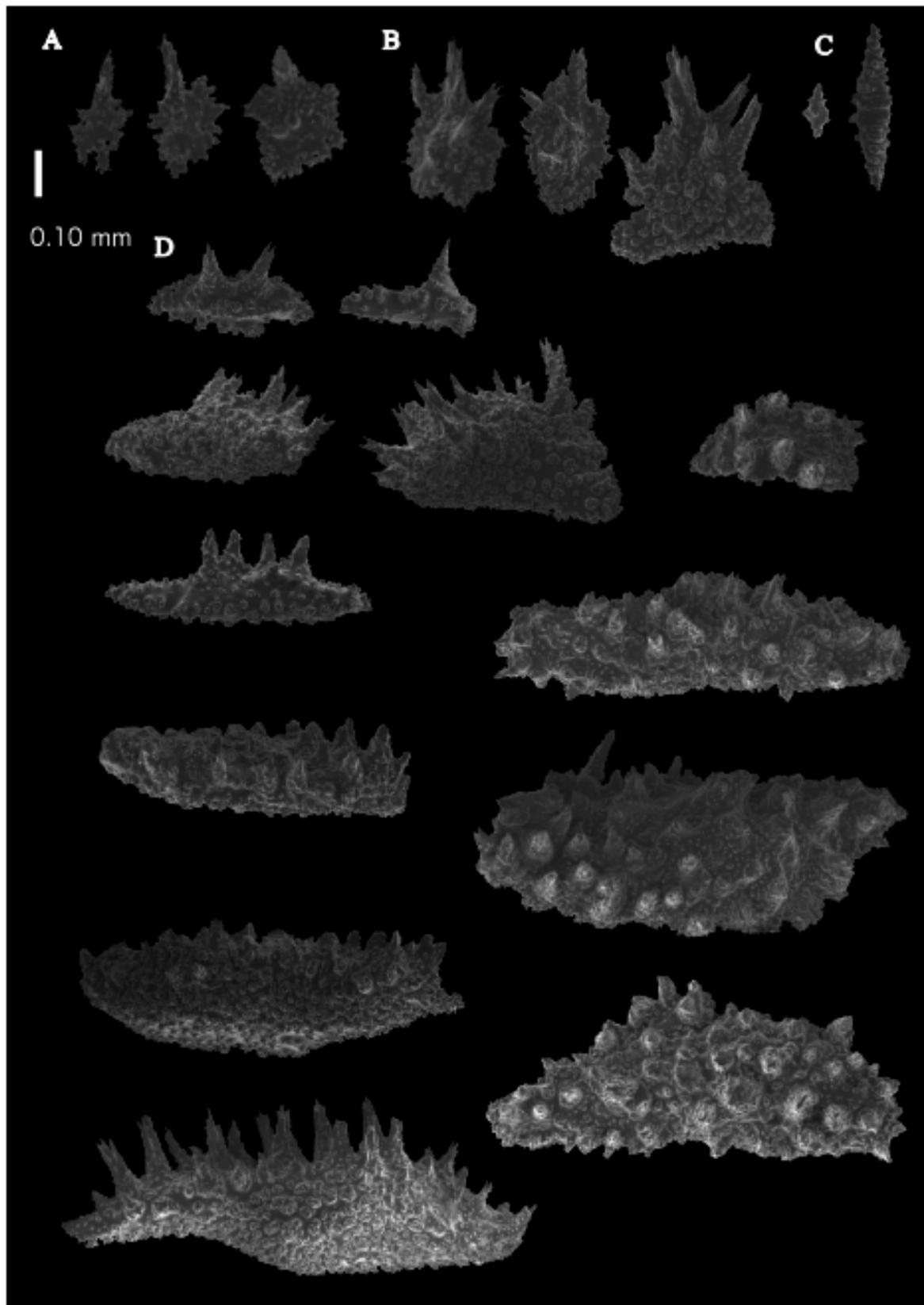


Figure 56. *Pseudothessa satsumaensis* n. sp. holotype USNM30129: (A,B) calycular thorn scales, (C) interior coenenchymal spindles, (D) coenenchyme spindles.

Description. Holotype colony branched in one plane, 5.7 cm high and 7.2 cm wide (Figure 51B). Calyces are present on three sides of the branches. Branch ends are swollen. Calyces are conical and 0.6 mm high and 0.8 mm wide at their base. Polyps with collaret and points (Figure 52B). Point sclerites are bent spindles with complex tubercles and distal end spiny, basal end with simple tubercles. These spindles are up to 0.34 mm long (Figure 55D). Collaret with bent spindles, up to 0.3 mm long, middle part with simple tubercles and sometimes small side branches, ends are smooth (Figure 55C). Tentacles with small spindles, up to 0.18 mm long, with simple tubercles; the largest spindles dragon-wing-shaped (Figure 55A). Calyces with thornscales, up to 0.30 mm long, with simple and complex tubercles (Figure 55B,B' and Figure 56A). Surface coenenchyme with unilaterally spinose spindles, up to 1.0 mm long, with complex tubercles (Figure 56B). Interior with smaller spindles, up to 0.34 mm long, with simple or complex tubercles (Figures 55E and 56C).

Colour. Colony colour yellowish white, sclerites colourless.

Variation. Paratype USNM30130 colony is smaller than the holotype but the sclerites are similar (Figures 51C and 52C). USNM30131 colony colour slightly darker than USNM30129 and USNM30130 (Figures 51D and 52D).

Distribution. The species is only known from its type locality, Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan, Northwest Pacific.

Etymology. The species is named after its type locality, Satsuma, the old name of Kagoshima Prefecture.

Remarks. The label identification is *Paracis placoderma*, but that species does not exist. Bayer [8] once synonymised *Pseudothèsesea* and *Placogorgia*, saying the type of the species *Pseudothèsesea placoderma* is identical to *Placogorgia atlantica*, but later on, he said that it is different [13]. Bayer's identification of materials USNM30130-30131 and USNM91880 may show his confusion in the 1981 paper. Bayer [13] mentioned that the characters of *Pseudothèsesea* and *Paracis* are similar. This confusion by Bayer could be caused by the fact that he never examined the type material of *Acis orientalis* (the type of the genus *Neoacis* (*Paracis*)). *P. satsumaensis* sp. nov. resembles *Pseudothèsesea placoderma* but differs in having unilaterally spinose coenenchymal spindles with complex tubercles and collaret spindles with simple tubercles.

***Pseudothèsesea tokaraensis* sp. nov.**

(Figures 51E, 52E, 57 and 58).

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:75526E74-2B17-4BCB-BFBF-704AB51A6213

Material examined. Holotype. RMNH.COEL.47987 (AKM797) Off Takarajima Is., Tokara Isls., East China Sea, 29°14.6410 N, 129°07.8392 E, depth 156 m, R/V *Tansei-maru*, KT07-2 cruise, st.DT5 (D8), coll. Yokose, 2 March 2007.

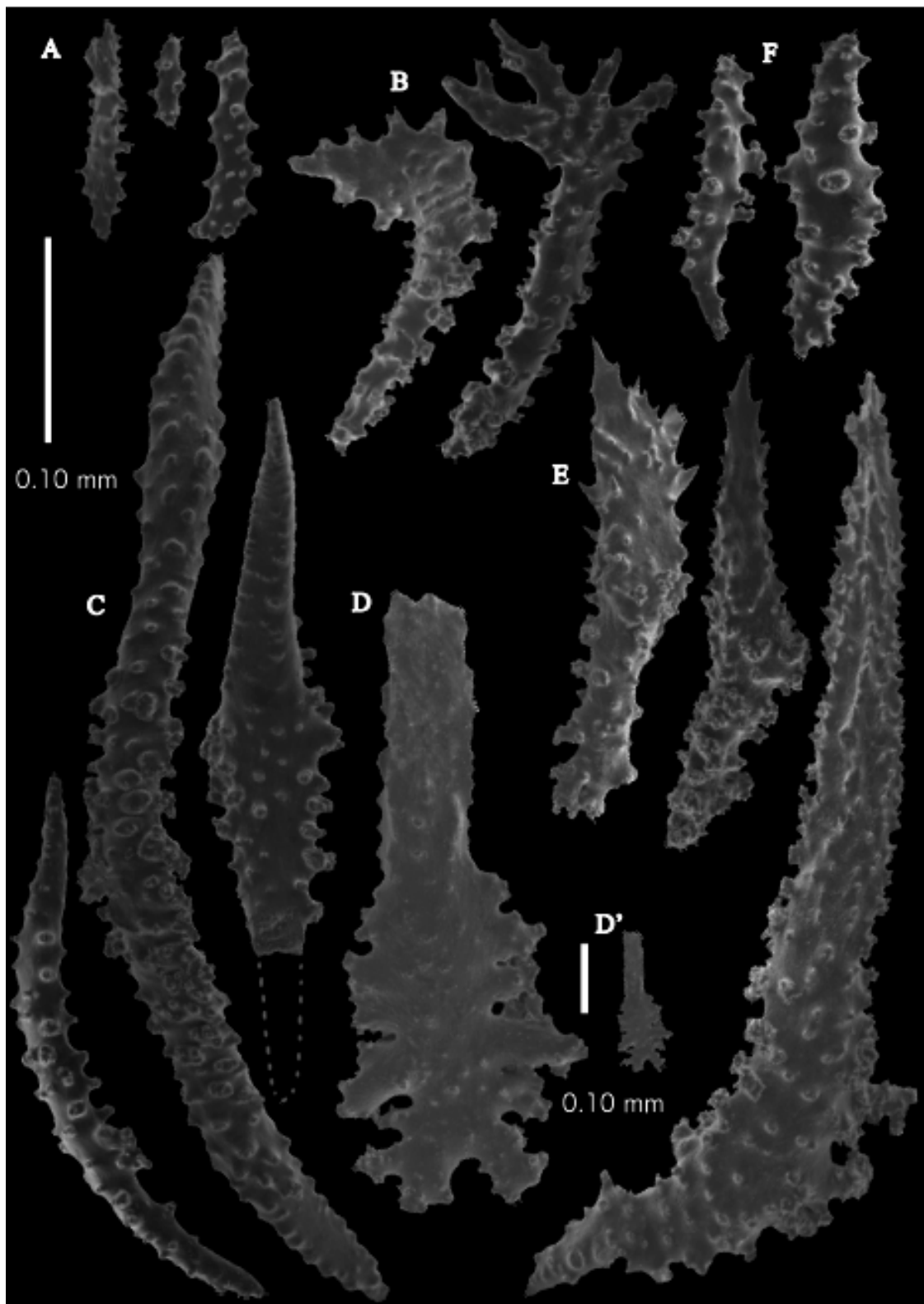


Figure 57. *Pseudothesea tokaraensis* n. sp. holotype RMNH.COEL.47987(AKM797): (A) tentacle spindles, (B) tentacle sclerites (dragon wings), (C) collaret spindles of polyps, (D,D') calycular thornscales, (E) point spindles of polyps, (F) interior coenenchymal spindles.

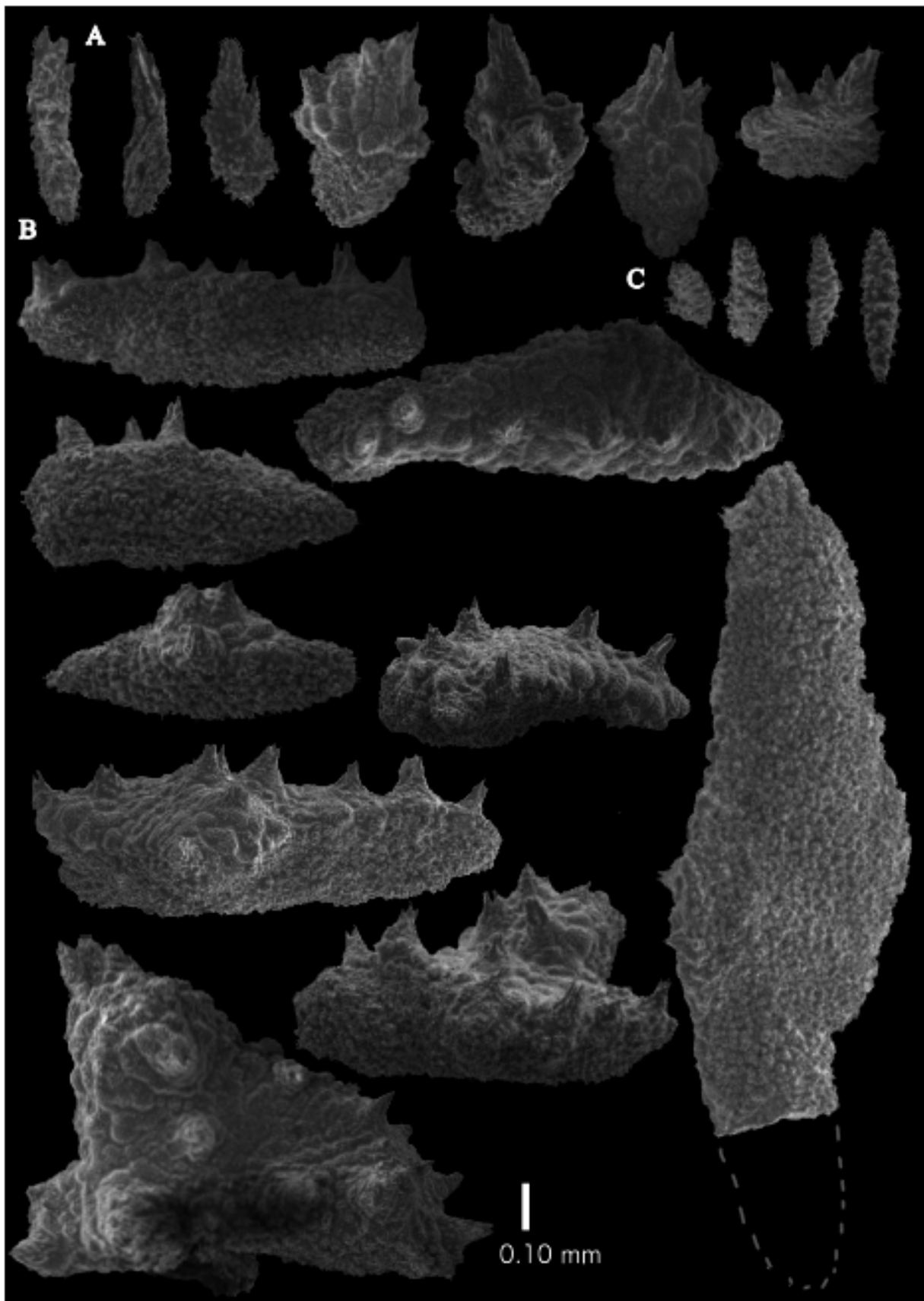


Figure 58. *Pseudothesea tokaraensis* n. sp. holotype RMNH.COEL.47987#(AKM797): (A) calycular thornscales, (B) coenenchyme spindles, (C) interior coenenchymal spindles.

Description. Colony branched in one plane, 9 cm high and 12 cm wide (Figure 51E). Calyces are present on three sides of the branches. Branch ends are swollen. Calyces are conical, 0.63 mm high and 1.3 mm wide at their base. Polyps with collaret and points (Figure 52E). Point sclerites are bent spindles with complex tubercles and distal end spiny, basal end with simple tubercles. These spindles are up to 0.45 mm long (Figure 57E). Collaret with bent spindles, up to 0.5 mm long, middle part with simple tubercles and sometimes small side branches, ends are smooth (Figure 57C). Tentacles with small spindles, up to 0.2 mm long, with simple tubercles; the largest spindles dragon-wing-shaped (Figure 57A,B). Calyces with thornscales, up to 0.46 mm long, with simple and complex tubercles and rounded elevations with prickles (Figure 57D,D' and Figure 58A). Surface coenenchyme with unilaterally spinose spindles, up to 1.77 mm long, with complex tubercles and rounded elevations with prickles (Figure 58B). Interior with small spindles, up to 0.3 mm long, with complex tubercles (Figures 57F and 58C).

Colour. Colony colour greyish-brown with dark polyps, sclerites colourless.

Distribution. Only known from its type locality, off the Tokara Islands, Japan, East China Sea.

Etymology. The species is named after its type locality, the Tokara Islands.

Remarks. This species with coenenchymal surface sclerites with rounded elevations with prickles shows characters of both *Paracis* and *Pseudothesea*. We put this species in *Pseudothesea* because of the spines on the coenenchyme sclerites.

5. Discussion

The following two reasons caused chaos for the genus *Paracis*: one is Nutting [4], who designated multiple different species as type materials for *Acis squamata* (revised as *Imbricacis squamata* in this paper). Three of four *A. squamata*-type specimens deposited in the Natural History Museum London (British Museum, UK, BMNH1925.7.25.38 from SIBOGA station 305), Smithsonian Institution (USNM91922 from SIBOGA station 65A) and the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam (material now moved to Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, Netherlands, ZMA Coel. 2142a from SIBOGA station 251) were not the species *I. squamata*, though they were labelled as types. An examination of only the British-Museum-type specimen of *I. squamata* or Smithsonian-type specimen of *I. squamata* by subsequent researchers led to misidentification/confusion.

The second reason is that no one ever examined and re-described the type of the genus *Neoacis* (*Paracis*). Aurivillius [6] said that he used the classification from Kükenthal [2]: p. 753 and did not see the materials he mentioned. Kükenthal [2] also did not examine the type of the genus, *Acis orientalis*. Kükenthal [2]: p. 753 only presents a table of *Acis*, *Scleracis*, and *Paracis* with species names and locality distribution. Bayer [10] described *Acis orientalis* from Bikini, but he also did not examine the type of *Acis orientalis* and treated his Bikini material (USNM 44078) as "*Acis orientalis*". He was also confused by the materials USNM30130 and USNM30131 (*Pseudothesea satsumaensis* sp. nov. in this paper) in the 1981 paper [13]. Bayer mentioned that the characters of *Pseudothesea* and *Paracis* are similar [13]. He and Gordon Paterson wrote "Index to Octocoral types in BM (NH). Surveyed February–April 1983.", but he did not focus on *Paracis* after that and the confusion remained.

McFadden et al. [7] retained the family Paramuriceidae based on molecular data and mentioned that the species in this clade have thornscales. The specimen they used in that paper, ANT67 *Paracis* sp. In Figure 1, was collected from Australia, South Pacific, and OCTO70 was from Eilat, Red Sea (personal communication with C. McFadden 17–21 April 2023). We did not examine most of the South Pacific material previously identified as *Paracis*. Since we have re-examined and revised previous *Paracis* species to four different genera, *Neoacis*, *Imbricacis* gen. n., *Pseudoparacis* gen. n., and *Pseudothesea*, it is not clear to which genus ANT67 *Paracis* sp. belongs. Therefore, an

examination and comparison of ANT67 and other South Pacific materials is needed for further discussion.

According to our examination of *Discogorgia campanulifera*, the type of the genus *Discogorgia*, *D. erythraeensis* Stiasny 1938 was transferred to the genus *Pseudoparacis* because the description of *D. erythraeensis* by Grasshoff [19] mentions that it has thornscales in the calyces, which are not present in the genus *Discogorgia*. This means if OCTO70 is identified correctly, it is appropriate to be in the Paramuriceidae thornscales clade in [7].

The genetics show that *Pseudoparacis spinifera* (RMNH.COEL.47988 (AKM554)) is very similar genetically to *Lepidomuricea* sp. (NTM-C014578) in Figure 2b of [7]. *Pseudoparacis* gen. n. and *Lepidomuricea* in Figure 2b of [7] are sister to one of the specimens of *Imbricacis* gen. n. from the Tasman Sea (NTM-C014576). However, the genus *Pseudoparacis* gen. n. (and *Lepidomuricea* in [7]) and the genus *Imbricacis* gen. n. are genetically quite different and could be different genera (personal communication: Cathy McFadden, 26 August 2016; 21 April 2023). We did not re-describe *Paracis* species described by Nutting from the SIBOGA EXPEDITION at this time, but an examination of those materials suggests that the type materials of his other *Paracis* species are also apparently contaminated by multiple different species.

In the key in this paper, *Thesea* and *Euplexaura* were only divided by the key based on the presence/absence of distinct calyces. Matsumoto and Ofwegen 2016 (*Euplexaura*—*Filigella*—*Thesea*) also suggests their resemblance.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Abbreviations

AKM	Asako K. Matsumoto collection, Planetary Exploration Research Center (PERC), Chiba Institute of Technology (Chitech), Japan
<i>Alb</i>	USFWS <i>Albatross</i>
BMNH	British Museum of Natural History, London (NHM), UK
ME (UPSZTY)	Museum of Evolution, Uppsala, Sweden
NMNH	National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA
NBC (RMNH)	Naturalis Biodiversity Center, formerly Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie
SMBL	Seto Marine Biological Laboratory, Field Science Education and Research Center, Kyoto University, Japan
UMUTZ	University Museum of University of Tokyo, Japan
USNM	United States National Museum, now NMNH, catalogue numbers of NMNH.
ZMUC	Zoological Museum University of Copenhagen, Denmark

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