Parasmittina serrula Soule & Soule, 1973. Tilbrook, Hayward & Gordon, 2001, p.76, fig.14E,F.

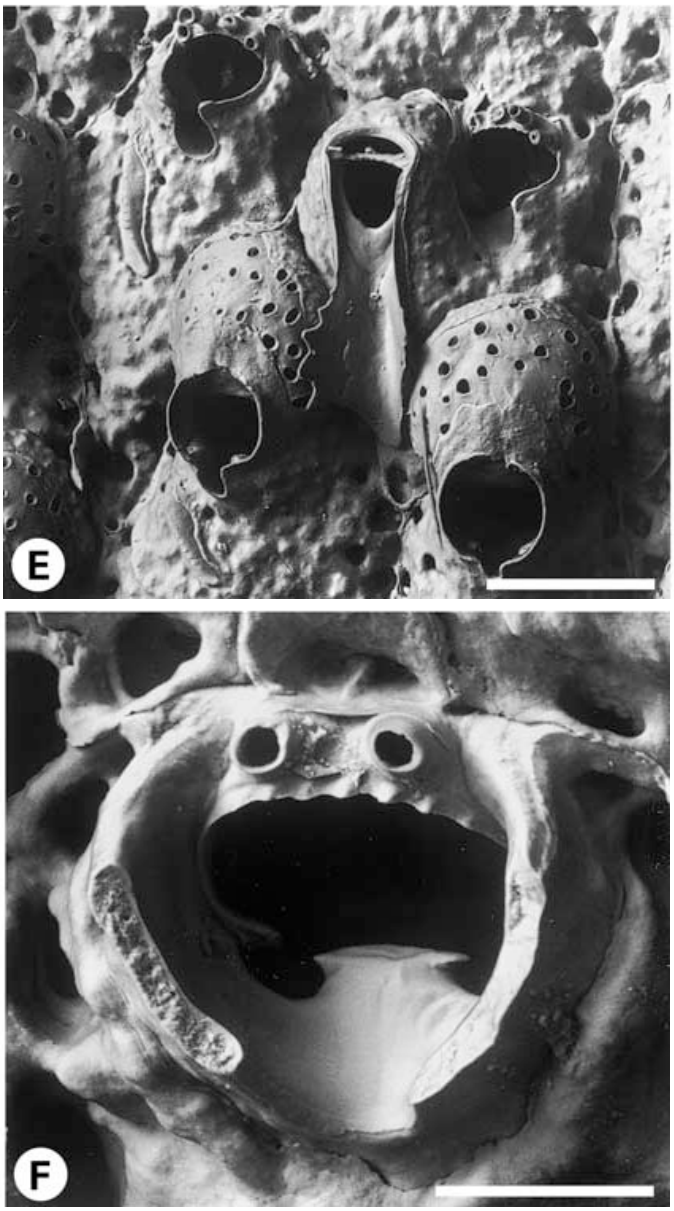
PARASMITTINA SERRULA SOULE & SOULE
(Fig. 14E,F)

Parasmittina serrula Soule & Soule, 1973: 386, fig. 3D–F.

Parasmittina serrula: Winston, 1984: 23, fig 45; Gordon, 1984: 96, pl. 35B,C; Scholz, 1991: 325, pl. 20, figs 1,2,4; Ryland & Hayward, 1992: 272, figs 23e,f, 24a; Gordon & d'Hondt, 1997: 21, fig. 27.

Remarks

Parasmittina serrula is readily identified by the morphology of the orifice and associated structures, and by two distinctive types of avicularia. The primary orifice is slightly wider than long and has a variably denticulated distal rim; the lateral condyles are rounded and downcurved, with finely toothed edges visible with high-power light microscopy. The anvil-shaped lyrula is broad basally, tapering towards a curved distal edge, the corners of which are generally sharply produced. There are three or four stout distal oral spines, five or six in periancestrular zooids. The peristome is well developed proximally and laterally but has a deep midproximal notch. The most frequently occurring adventitious avicularia are elongate, narrow and parallel-sided, rounded at tip, lateral-suboral, single or paired, of similar shape but uneven lengths, and proximally directed; characteristically, one of these lies on its side, displaying a downcurved, finely denticulate rostral rim. Other enlarged giant avicularia are also diagnostic: the slender crossbar is situated adjacent to the orifice, the rostrum extending to the proximal end of the autozooid; the rostrum is narrow proximally, slightly flared laterally, with a deeply toothed rim. Some colonies lack one or other of the avicularia from large areas. Ovicells are slightly wider than long, raised, recumbent on the frontal shield of the distal autozooid, with about 20 small, tubiform pores frontally, the orificial peristome encroaching onto its frontal surface in later ontogeny, forming a complete rim above its aperture.



Distribution

Parasmittina serrula is the most widely recorded of the species of *Parasmittina* found in Vanuatu. Described originally from Hawaii, *P. serrula* has been reported also from Belize and Jamaica (Winston, 1984), the Great Barrier Reef (Ryland & Hayward, 1992), the Philippines (Gordon & d'Hondt 1997), and the Kermadec Ridge (Gordon, 1984). As in Hawaii (Soule & Soule, 1973) it was by far the commonest species of *Parasmittina* in Vanuatu, found at Poanangisu, Iririki Island, and Port Vila Harbour, Efate.