

*Arachnopusia unicornis* (Hutton, 1873). Gordon, 1989, p.28, pl.12A-C.

***Arachnopusia unicornis* (Hutton) (Plate 12, A-C)**

*Eschara unicornis* Hutton, 1873; 99.

*Arachnopusia unicornis*: Foster 1982: 140; Bock 1982: 360; Gordon 1984: 69 (*cum syn.*); Hayward & Thorpe 1988a: 794.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: NZOI: Stns B455, B480, B482, B483, B485, B487, B488, B490, B493, B498, B616, C856, C857, C861, C867, C868, C869, C871, D252, D253, D264, D266, D269, D270, D272, D273, D274, E796, E800, E820, E821, M780, M789, M797, Q686. DPG: Totaranui, Abel Tasman National Park.

DISTRIBUTION: Kermadec Ridge, Three Kings Islands, Hauraki Gulf, Auckland Harbour, Mount Maunganui, Maui-A oil platform, Taranaki, Cook Strait, Marlborough Sounds, Tasman Bay, Totaranui, Kahurangi Point, Fiordland, western approaches to Foveaux Strait; 0-549 m. Also southern Australia.

REMARKS: As Uttley and Bullivant (1972) remarked, this species is subject to "bewildering variation" particularly in regard to the appearance of the frontal shield. Consistent features, however, are the grooved distal rim of the orifice, a small median avicularium in the proximal rim, and a lateral-oral avicularium (of varying size) on the side opposite the long projecting spine. The principal variable features are the number of perforations in the frontal shield, the number of distal orificial spines in developing zooids, and both number and size of adventitious avicularia. In life, this species has 15-16 tentacles in the lophophore. The colony colour is light orange, but the embryo colour is strong red (Munsell designation) (Gordon 1970).

