

EOTETRAHEDRION

Schopf & Blacic 1971

Genus EOTETRAHEDRION, n. gen.

Type species.—*Eotetrahedron princeps*, n. sp.

Diagnosis.—Cells spheroidal, occurring in tetrahedral tetrads encompassed by an unlamellated, sheath-like membrane. Surface texture moderately to coarsely granular. Cells

spheroidal but may be distorted by mutual compression; cell diameters vary between 7.7 and 12.0 μm , with average dimensions (4 cells measured in one tetrad) of 9.4 μm . Tetrahedral cell group encompassed by distinct, unlamellated, hyaline membrane, up to 2.5 μm thick at periphery of tetrad. Reproduction by fragmentation of (meiotically produced?) tetrads, possibly giving rise to solitary, sheath-encompassed cells (haploid spores?) of similar size apparently exhibiting surficial trichotomous markings.

Etymology.—With reference to Precambrian age and occurrence of cells in a tetrahedral tetrad.

Division Chlorophycophyta?
Rhodophycophyta?
Class Chlorophyceae?
Rhodophyceae?

