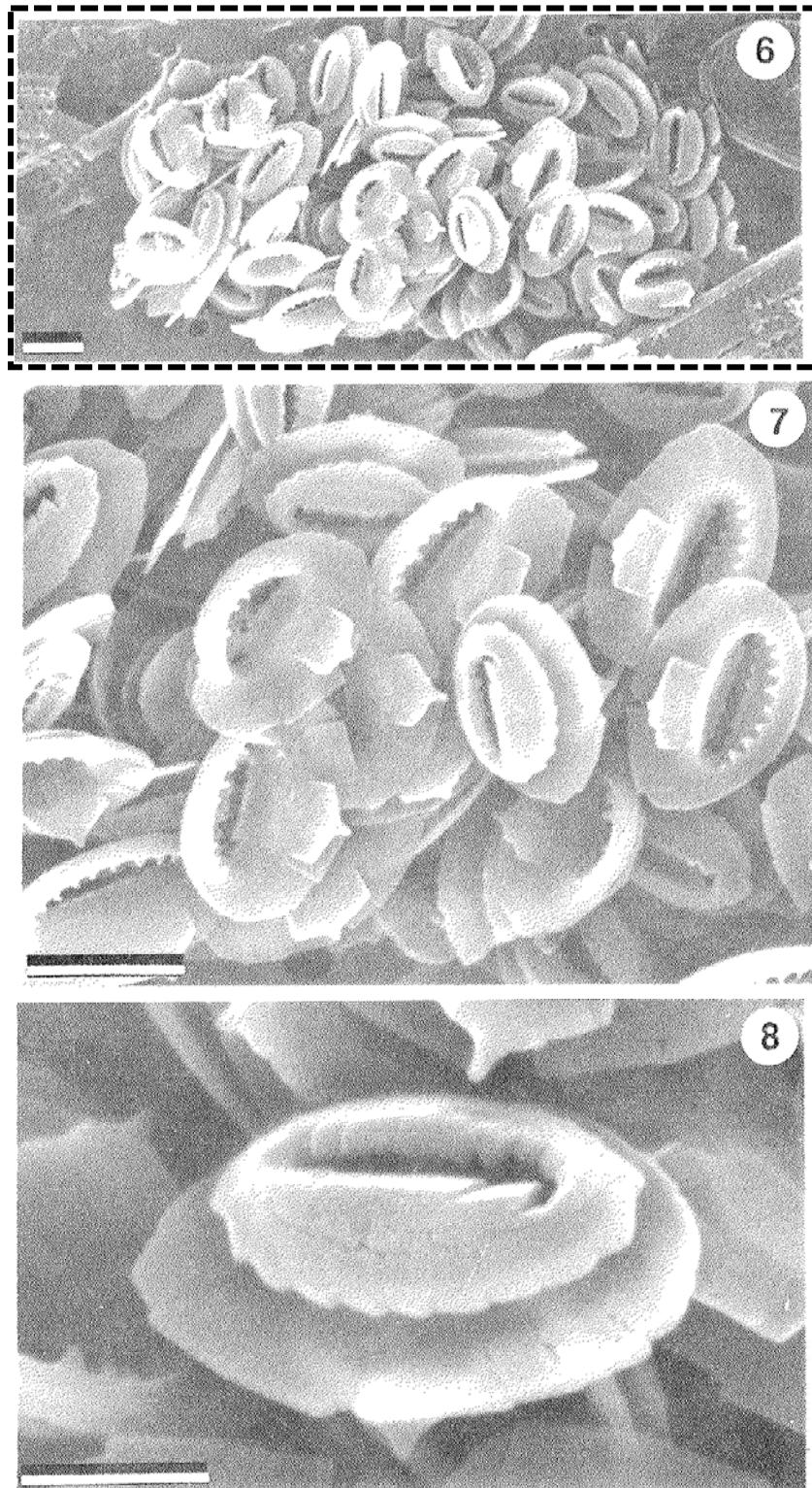


2. *Alisphaera spatula* Steinmetz (1991)



Pl. 15, figs 6-8

Derivation of name: From Latin, diminutive of *spatha*, broad flat instrument or blade.

Descriptio coccolith: *Coccolithus ovatus* cum periphæria impari. Orae distalis una pars, quæ axi coccolithi longiori parallelus observatur, latitudine altera multo superat. Elementum aliquod latum, in medio situm, ensiformum, ab ora paullo tollitur et a distali parte protruditur. Margo eiusdem extremus processum quendam continet, obtusum, in medio situm, qui ultra marginem coccolithi paullo extenditur. Periphæria interior omne distalis angustæ, ad partem ensiformam adversa, in pinna crenata angusta consistit, quæ a distali parte protruditur. Octo novemve dentes, inter se intervallis paribus distantes, in pinna apparent. Coccolithi partes proximalis et distalis brevi fistulæ adiunguntur. Ora proximalis ovata multo angustior est quam pars ulla orae distalis. Elementa inter se aptata, rectis angulis formata, quæ a columna superficiei proximalis centrali ad medium centrum extenduntur, rimam enormiter lineatam (ad litteræ flexuosæ "W" figuram) præbent. Longitudo de 1.5 ad 1.8 µm, latitudo de 0.9 ad 1.1 µm variat. Latitudo autem quasi gladii (e regione axis longioris) c. 0.5 µm videtur.

Description of coccolith: Elliptical coccolith with asymmetrical periphery. One side of the distal rim parallel to the longitudinal axis of the coccolith is much wider than the other. A broad centrally-located, blade-shaped element is slightly elevated from the rim and protrudes distally. Its outer edge contains a centrally-located, blunt projection which extends slightly beyond the edge of the coccolith. The inner periphery of the narrow distal rim, opposite the side with the blade, consists of a narrow crenate fin which protrudes distally. Eight or nine regularly-spaced teeth are evident on the fin. Proximal and distal parts of the coccolith are attached to a short tube. The elliptical proximal rim is much narrower than any part of the distal rim. Interlocking rectangular elements extending centerward from the central column on the proximal surface create an irregularly-outlined (zig-zag) longitudinal slit. Length ranges from 1.5 to 1.8µm, width from 0.9 to 1.1 µm. Width of blade (parallel to long axis) is about 0.5 µm.

Remarks: The coccolith of *Alisphaera spatula* STEINMETZ n. sp. differs from that of *Alisphaera ordinata* (Kamptner) HEIMDAL, 1973, and *Alisphaera unicornis* OKADA AND MCINTYRE, 1977, by having a blade-shaped element on its distal rim, with a centrally-located, short, distally-pointing projection. The pointed projection of *A. unicornis* is longer, extends farther beyond the coccolith rim, and originates from the wide margin, not from a distinctly separate rectangular blade as in *A. spatula* n. sp.

Holotype: Plate 15, figure 6. Negative 12-L-2.

Type locality: Equatorial Atlantic Ocean (13°30'N, 54°00'W), PARFLUX Station E.

Biogeography: Observed frequently at Station E, trap at 389 m depth, in the equatorial Atlantic Ocean.

Steinmetz, J.C., 1991. Calcareous Nannoplankton Biocoenosis: Sediment Trap Studies in the Equatorial Atlantic, Central Pacific, and Panama Basin. In Honjo, S. (ed.). Ocean Biocoenosis Series, 1. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. 85pp.