**Coccolithus fuscus** Backman, 1980

Diagnosis: Small elliptic species of *Coccolithus* with a central pore and slightly curved sutures on the distal shield.

Description: The species is elliptic in outline and has a central pore on the distal shield. The elements are bent in a proximal direction at the centre of the distal shield, forming the central pore with vertical smooth walls. The distal shield consists of approximately 10 to 20 elements which show light imbrication and curved sutures. The placolith length varies between 2 and 5 \( \mu \text{m} \) in the investigated material.

Dimension of holotype: 2.6 \( \mu \text{m} \).

Derivation of name: Latin: *fuscus* = darkbrown, referring to the darkbrown colour of the specimens when observed under phase contrast.

Remarks:

*Coccolithus fuscus* does not appear bright between crossed nicols in the material from site 116. Its tiny size makes it difficult to observe in normal light. In phase contrast at high magnification (x 1000) it has a distinct brownish appearance. Almost nearly circular specimens have been observed. *Coccolithus crater*, Roth, 1970 shows affinity to *C. fuscus*, but the latter species has curved sutures between the elements of the distal shield whereas the former species has straight sutures and, additionally, fewer rim elements. *Coccolithus radiatus* KAMPTNER, 1955 (= *C. pataecus*, GARTNER, 1967) is larger, has approximately 15 - 20 rim elements in the distal shield and has a characteristics interference pattern between crossed nicols (distal shield bright with straight extinction band). Jafar (1975) provided an adequate description and illustration of *C. radiatus*. Bukry (1971, pl. 4, fig. 1) showed an excellent electron micrograph of *C. fuscus* under the name *Coccolithus* sp. from an early Miocene deposit in the equatorial Pacific.
Type level:

Type level of holotype: Middle Miocene.

Occurrence: *Coccolithus fuscus* is a consistent but rare member of the nannofossil assemblage from core 18 (early Miocene) to core 1 (late Pliocene) at site 116. Since reworking has affected the Miocene-Pliocene sequence at site 116 the exact stratigraphic range of this species must be considered as uncertain.

Type locality:


Depository:

Geologiska Institutionen, University of Stockholm.
Holotype: fig. 8, G.I.NP. 1.

Author:

Backman J., 1980, p. 47; pl. 2, figs. 6-9.

Reference: