Cyclococcolithus orbis GARTNER & SMITH, 1967

Aff. Coccolithus luntanicus BLACK, 1964, p. 308, pl. 50, fig. 1, 2 (Palaeontology, vol. 7).

Figs. 1, 2, 3a-c — Cyclococcolithus orbis n. sp., 1, 2) Electron micrographs, x 3600. (1) Type specimen, proximal view, (2) distal view; 3a-c) Light micrographs, x 3400, proximal view, (3a) Phase contrast, (3b, c) cross-polarized light, high and low focus. This species has a sharp swastika-like pseudointerference figure in cross-polarized light when the proximal shield is in focus.

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Description:

This circular placolith has the larger distal shield constructed of about 50 elements with flat terminations giving the placolith a smooth circular outline. The central perforation is circular, in some views appearing crudely polygonal. The cylindrical collar is robust, extending up to half the radius of the distal shield, and the collar and shield elements are joined distally along a serrate line. The sutures of the distal shield incline counterclockwise and the elements appear to imbricate dextrally. In the proximal shield the elements have a pointed or rounded termination and form a serrate periphery. Sutures and imbrication are not clearly distinguishable. Diameter, 9 to 10.5 μ.

Remarks:

This species resembles the Miocene form from the experimental Mohole which was identified as *Cyclococcolithus leptoporus* (MURRAY & BLACKMANN) by Martini and Bramlette (1963) but differs in having the sutures inclined in the opposite direction. *Cyclococcolithus orbis* closely resembles *Coccolithus lusitanicus* BLACK (1964), but the type of *C. lusitanicus* (BLACK, 1964, pl. 50, fig. 1) is elliptical. Intraspecific variation among placoliths from elliptical (*Coccolithus*) to circular (*Cyclococcolithus*) has not been demonstrated.

Type level:

Yazo Formation, lower Jackson, upper Eocene.

Type locality:

East bank of Red River at Montgomery Landing on Creole Bluff, in West Montgomery, Grant Parish, Louisiana, USA.

Depository:

Not given.

Author:

Gartner S., Jr. and Smith L. A., 1967, p. 4; pl. 4, figs. 1, 2, 3a-c.

Reference: