Discoasteroides Bramlette & Sullivan, 1961

Description:
Asteroliths having a large, terminally concave stem flaring out as radiate elements at the end.

Remarks:
Between crossed nicols, the difference is especially evident between the ortholithid discoasters, with stem included in the unit mass of calcite, and the heliolithid character of the large stem of Discoasteroides. As side view of the stem thus shows different extinction positions for its two sides, and the end view of the stem shows the extinction lines forming a cross. Although this unusual character of the stem seems adequate as a basis for generic distinction from Discoaster, close relationship is indicated by forms such as Discoaster diastypus, the large stem of which is deeply depressed terminally, and, although not pronouncedly flaring, it also shows a slight difference in the extinction positions of the two sides.

Type species:
Discoaster kuepperi Stradner, 1959.

Author:

Reference: