**Ericsonia sparsa** PERCH-NIELSEN, 1981

Figs. 11-13 - *Ericsonia sparsa* n.sp. Distal views. Holotype: Figure 12,364/1 (Fig. 11,12) and 566; \( \times 7500 \).

**Description:**

Diagnosis: Elliptical form of *Ericsonia* with an elliptical central opening surrounded by two cycles of elements in distal view.

Description: The distal shield consists of about 40 to 50 elements (depending on the size of the coccolith). The central opening is surrounded by a cycle of slightly overlapping elements, which does not, as in most *Ericsonia*, lie directly on the distal shield, but which is separated from the latter by a cycle of small elements well visible on all three figures of the species. The proximal side is unknown and may not be distinguishable from the proximal view of *Ericsonia cava* and other species of *Ericsonia/Coccolithus*.

**Remarks:**

The extra cycle of elements distinguishes *Ericsonia sparsa* from the other species of this genus.

**Type level:**

Danian, Cruciplacolithus tenuis Zone, NP2 and Zone D4 of Perch-Nielsen (1979). Occurrence: *Ericsonia sparsa* is very rare in one sample from Legind, Denmark, and was also found in the sample from Richards Bay, South Africa (Danian). It is likely that this species has a wide distribution, but is usually overlooked and so lumped with *Ericsonia cava*.

**Type locality:**

Legind, Jylland, Denmark.

**Depository:**

ETH SEM Archive, Honggerberg, Zurich. Holotype: Negative 6-3044/6, fig. 12.
Author:

Reference:
New Maastrichtian and Paleocene calcareous nannofossils from Africa, Denmark, the USA and the Atlantic, and some Paleocene lineages. Eclogae geol. Helv., vol. 74/3, pp. 831-863, 7 pls., 14 text-figs.