203. Salisia Varol (2004)

Synonyms: *Ellipsoplacolithus* KAMPTNER, 1963 (Invalid ICBN Art. 34.1)

Pseudoemiliania GARTNER, 1969 (Invalid ICBN Art. 12.1)

Type species: *Salisia gartneri* n. g. n. sp.

Diagnosis: Circular to elliptical placolith made up of two monocyclic shields and a tube cycle, which are all made up of R-Crystal units. The distal shield is pierced by various numbers of radial slits. The central area may or may not be covered by a delicate mesh structure.

Derivation of name: In honour of Prof. Dr. K. Perch-Nielsen von Salis, Geologisches Institut, ETH-Z, CH-8092 Zurich, Switzerland.

Description : The size of this circular to elliptical placolith varies greatly, ranging from 2 μm to 10 μm. The size of placoliths seems to display a trend of increase with time. The distal shield has variable numbers of slits and is greater in size than the proximal shield. Both proximal and distal shields and tube cycle are made up of R-Crystal units and, therefore, appear birefringent under polarised light. The central area is spanned by a delicate mesh-like structure that is usually removed by adverse preservational conditions. In this study, the species of this genus are differentiated by being elliptical or circular and by the number of radial slits in the distal shield being greater/less than 13. Further subdivision is also possible using the width of tube cycle and the size of the placolith. It is tentatively suggested that *Salisia* evolved from *Crenalithus* ROTH (1973) by the development of radial slits in the distal shield within Zone NN 13, Early Pliocene, which in turn evolved from *Reticulofenestra* HAY, MOHLER & WADE (1967) by the distinct reduction or absence of imbrications of elements in the shield within Zone NN 11, Late Miocene.

Dr. J. YOUNG (Natural History Museum of London) made available the type sample (Challenger 338) of *Crenalithus doronicoides* (BLACK & BARNES) ROTH (1973). This sample contains common *Crenalithus doronicoides* with a lot of reworking of older sediments.

Remarks: *Salisia* is distinguished from *Emiliania* HAY & MOHLER in HAY, MOHLER, ROTH, SCHMIDT & BOUDREAUX (1967) by having radial slits in its distal shield. In the latter, the distal shield is made up of I-shaped elements. The shields of *Salisia* and *Crenalithus* ROTH (1973) are similarly constructed but *Crenalithus* lacks radial slits in its distal shield. *Reticulofenestra* HAY, MOHLER & WADE (1967) differs from *Salisia* also by the absence of radial slits in its distal shield. Moreover, the elements in the shields of *Reticulofenestra* are strongly imbricated, whereas, in *Salisia,* the elements are non-imbricated or only negligibly overlapping.

Varol, O., 2004. Salisia n.g. – a new Pliocene-Pleistocene coccolith genus. *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie, Monatschefte,* **2004(2):** 119-128.