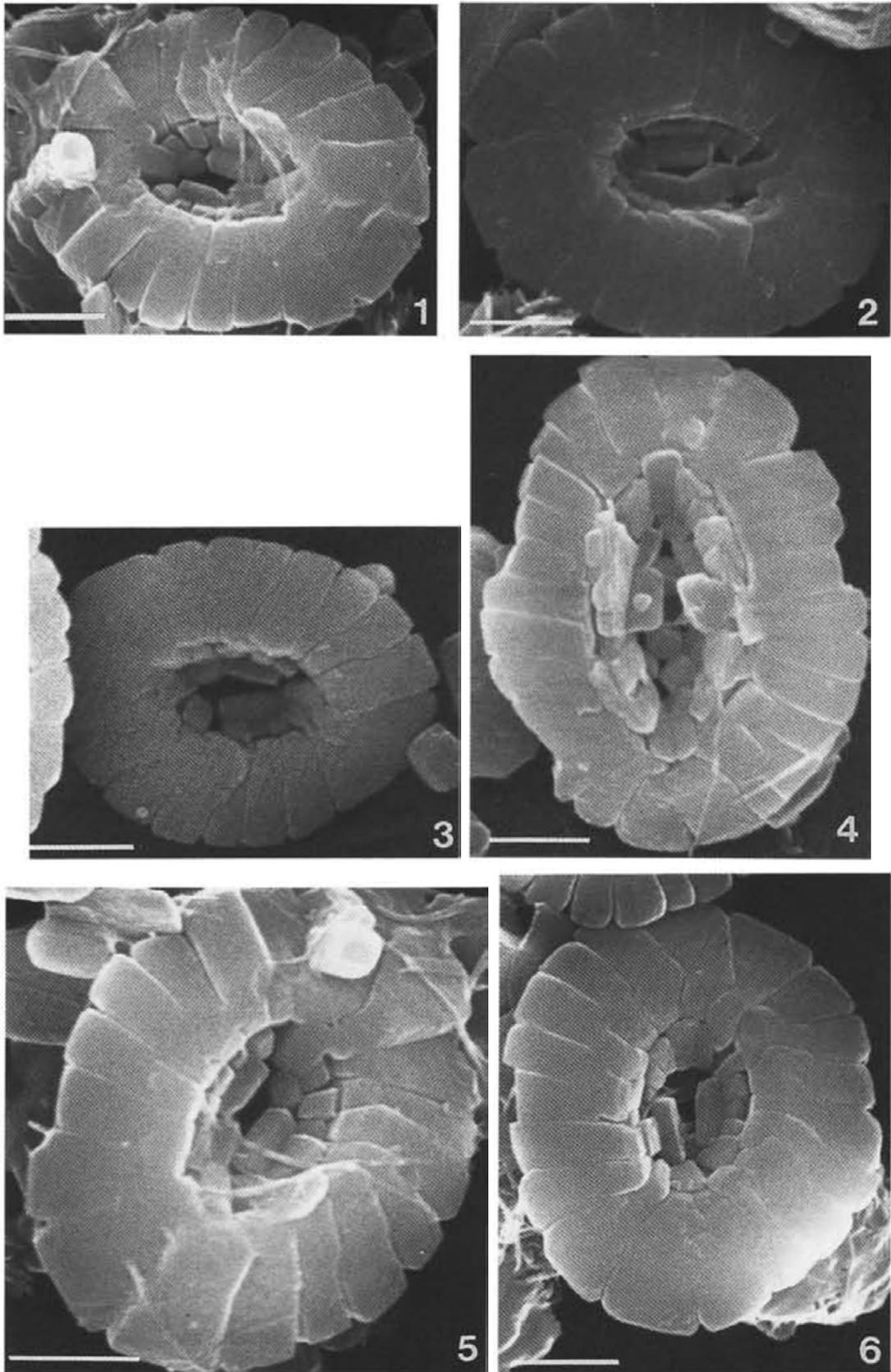


212. *Seribiscutum gaultensis* Mutterlose (1992)



Pl. 1, figs 1-6



Pl. 6. fig. 4

Derivatio nominis. The name is derived from the occurrence of this species in the Aptian-Albian interval (= Gault).

Holotype. Plate 1, Figure 5.

Type locality. Site 766: Gascoyne Abyssal Plain.

Typical stratum. Site 766: Sample 123-766A-21R-2, 32- 34 cm: 192.82- 192.84 mbsf; middle to lower upper Albian, *Prediscosphaera columnata* Zone.

Size. Maximum length = 5 μm : maximum width 3.5 μm .

Material. Consistent occurrence at Site 765, Samples 123 -765C-40R-3, 32-34 cm. to -31R-CC.

Consistent occurrence at Site 766. Samples 123-766A-26R-1, 10 cm to 20R-1, 67-68 cm.

Diagnosis. A small species of *Seribiscutum* with a central area filled by at least four horizontal elements.

Description. Small elliptical placolith constructed of about 20 to 26 non imbricate, petaloidal outer elements in the distal shield. The maximum length varies between 4 and 5 μm ; maximum width is about 3.5 μm . A second inner distal cycle forms a collar around the central area and is composed of about 20 vertically, nonimbricate inclined elements. The central area is nearly filled by at least four platelike elements that are interrupted in the center by a pore. The central elements are discernible under the light microscope and form a distinctive extinction pattern.

Differential diagnosis. *S. gaultensis* differs from *B. coronum* by its smaller size, its distinctive central elements, and its different stratigraphic occurrence. *S. gaultensis* differs from *S. primitivum* and *S. bijugum*, both of which have plates covering the central area, by its smaller size and the arrangement of its central elements. This species may represent an overgrown *Biscutum constans*, but it is always discernible from under the light microscope. In addition, the central area of *S. gaultensis* is wider than that of *B. constans*.

Range. *S. gaultensis* has been observed from the lower Aptian to the middle Albian from Sites 765 and 766.

Geographic distribution. So far, this species has been observed only from the Indian and Pacific oceans (Sites 765, 766).

Mutterlose, J., 1992. Lower Cretaceous nannofossil biostratigraphy off northwestern Australia (Leg 123). *Proceedings of the Ocean Drilling Program, Scientific Results*, **123**: 343-368.