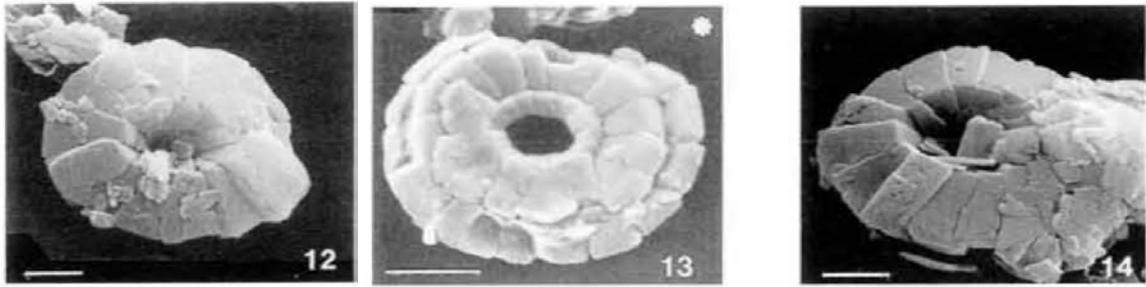
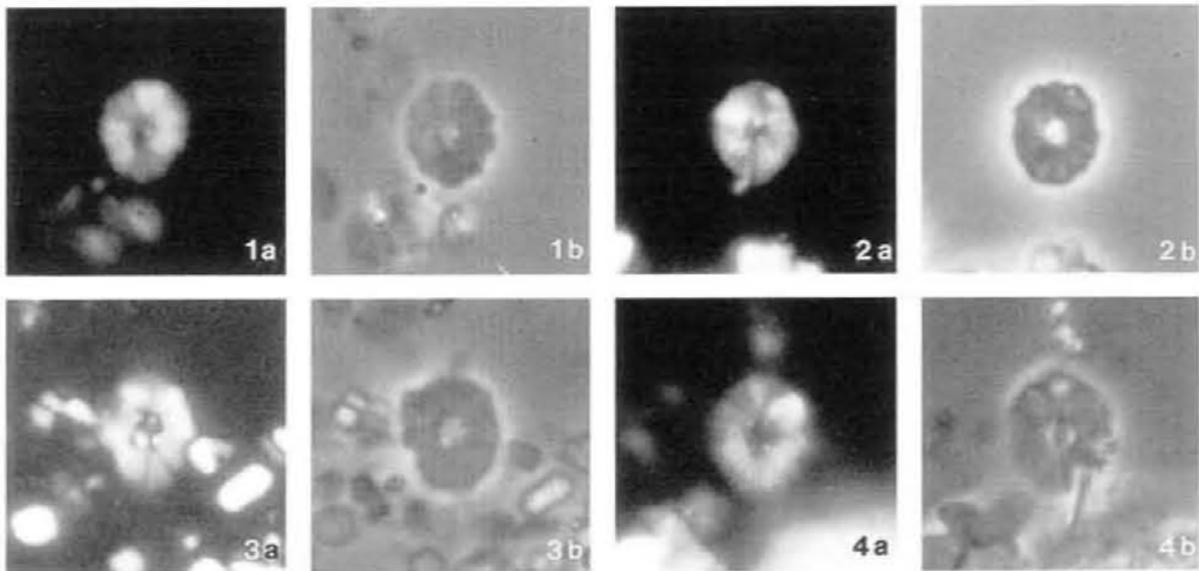


194. *Similiscutum avitum* de Kaenel & Bergen (1993)



SCALE BARS=1 μ m

Pl. 1, figs 12-14



Pl. 2, figs 1-4

1971 *Calyculus cribrum* (NOEL 1973): Hamilton. p 586: pl 1. fig. 9.

1990 *Biscutum novum* (Goy 1979) BOWN 1987a; Cobianchi. p. 134: fig. 4b.

1992 *Biscutum novum* (Goy 1979) BOWN 1987a; Cobianchi (partim). p. 92-93: fig. 19b (non figs. 19c. d).

Derivation of name. From Latin *avitus*, ancestral.

Diagnosis. A small, normally to broadly elliptical species of *Similiscutum* with an open central area.

Description. Elliptical placoliths composed of two subhorizontal, broad shields. The distal shield is larger than the proximal shield. Shield elements are non-imbricate and have radial sutures. The proximal shield contains two elements cycles. The narrow inner cycle extends below the base of the broad outer cycle and is connected to the base of the inner margin of the distal shield (visible at the base of the central area in distal view). A

central perforation is present. In the LM, the rim extinction pattern is bicyclic, consisting of a thin, birefringent (1st order white) inner rim cycle and a faint, broad outer rim cycle.

Length. 3.3 to 5.0 μm .

Discussion. Specimens observed have between 13 to 17 rim elements. The length of the central pore is less than one-fourth of the coccolith length.

Differentiation. *Similiscutum avitum* is distinguished from *Similiscutum orbiculus* by its elliptical shape and from *Similiscutum cruciulus* by its elliptical shape and lack of the central structure. *Similiscutum precarium* is elliptical, but has a central cross structure. Other elliptical Biscutaceae which occur in the Pliensbachian belong to the genus *Palaeopontosphaera*, and have brightly birefringent inner distal cycles and central cross structures.

Occurrence. Switzerland (de Kaenel). LO: base *ibex* Zone. HO: top *spinatum* Zone.

Morocco (de Kaenel). LO: base *ibex* Zone. HO: top *emaciatum* Zone.

Portugal (Bergen). *margaritatus* Zone (incomplete stratigraphic range).

Holotype. Plate 1, Figure 13 (APR-1370).

Type level: Sample SP 33, upper Pliensbachian (*margaritatus* Zone).

Type locality. Sao Pedro de Mal, Portugal.

de Kaenel, E. & Bergen, J.A., 1993. New Early and Middle Jurassic coccolith taxa and biostratigraphy from the eastern proto-Atlantic (Morocco, Portugal and DSDP Site 547B). *Eclogae Geologicae Helvetiae*, **86(3)**: 861-907.