

Alfordia BLACK, 1975

Description:

Diagnosis: Alfordiaceae with a hollow spine.

Remarks:

This genus differs from *Viminites* gen. nov. and *Parhabdolithus* in having a hollow instead of a solid spine. In a previous paper rhabdoliths of this kind were referred to the genus *Rhabdolithina* REINHARDT, 1967; further work, however, has shown that they differ too much from *Rhabdolithina splendens* (DEFLANDRE) REINHARDT, the type species of that genus, for them to be reasonably included in that genus. *R. splendens* was first described by Deflandre from the Eocene of Donzacq, France. Micrographs of the holotype show little detail of the basal disk, but the description and drawings show clearly that the rim consists of non-imbricate granules about 0.7 μ in width. This is a structure quite different from that seen in rim of *A. ampla* and other species which were formerly included in *Rhabdolithina* and are now removed to *Alfordia*.

Type species:

Rhabdolithina ampla BLACK, 1971.

Author:

Black M., 1975, p. 125.

Reference:

British Lower Cretaceous Coccoliths. I. Gault Clay, part 3. Palaeontogr. Soc. Monogr., vol. 129, pp. 113-142, pl. 34.