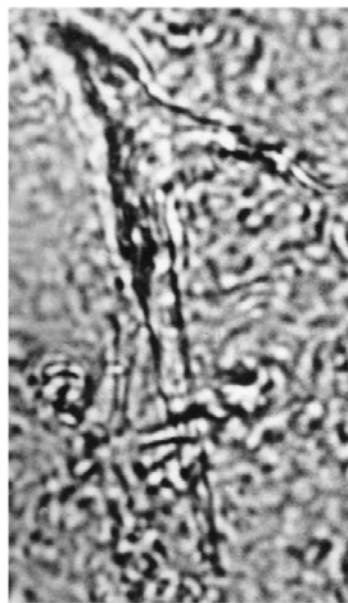


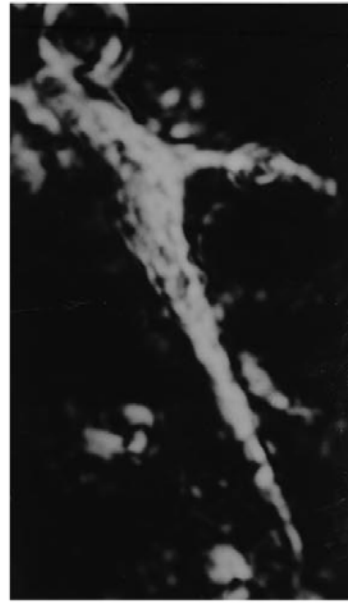
38. *Ceratolithus larrymayeri* Backman & Raffi in Raffi et al. (1998)



10

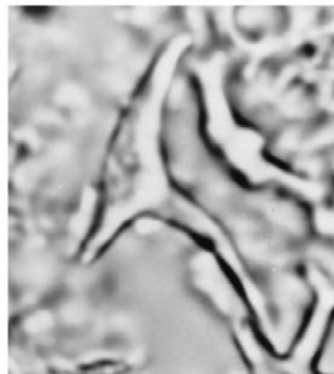


15

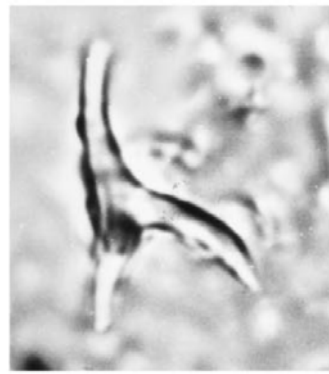


16

Pl. VI, figs 10, 15, 16



3



4

Pl. VII, 3, 4

*Amaurolithus* cf. *Amaurolithus tricorniculatus* (Gartner) Perch-Nielsen, 1977, Init. Rep. DSDP 39, pl. 5, Figs. 8 and 11.

**Holotype:** Plate VI, 15 and 16.

**Paratypes:** Plate VII, 4 and 7–15.

**Repository:** Holotype and paratypes are deposited in the permanent collections of the Museum of Paleontology of the University of Padova, Italy.

**Type locality:** Ceara Rise, western equatorial Atlantic Ocean, ODP Sites 154–926.

**Etymology:** In honour of professor Larry Mayer, paleoceanographer and marine geophysicist, University of New Brunswick, Canada.

**Diagnosis:** *Ceratolithus larrymayeri* is a delicate, morphologically unusual ceratolith built of three thin elements (horns or spines) with featureless surface.

**Description:** *Ceratolithus larrymayeri* ceratoliths have a Y-shaped structure composed of two thin and symmetrically arranged horns and a thin apical spine, of variable length. The horns diverge from the apical spine axis with variable angles, and can curve variably. Some specimens have the characteristic shape of a chicken 'wish-bone'. Optically, *C. larrymayeri* is birefringent in the preferred orientation; some specimens can appear weakly birefringent or non-birefringent.

**Size:** 25–30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; maximum length of horns: 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Remarks:** Morphologically, *Ceratolithus larrymayeri* is very different from the other *Ceratolithus* species that occur in the same stratigraphic interval, *C. acutus* and *C. armatus*, having a much more delicate and slender structure.

**Occurrence:** *Ceratolithus larrymayeri* is present in the subzone CN10b (Okada and Bukry, 1980) or upper part of NN12 (Martini, 1971), at the ODP Leg 154 sites (925, 926, 927, 928, 929). Its very short range is restricted to the interval straddling the Miocene=Pliocene boundary, and corresponds to the time interval from 5.37 to 5.26 Ma (Backman and Raffi, 1997).

Raffi, I., Backman, J. & Rio, D., 1998. Evolutionary trends of tropical calcareous nannofossils in the late Neogene. *Marine Micropaleontology*, **35(1-2)**: 17-41.