

DICTYODISCUS

Playford & Wicander 1988

p. 12

Diagnosis: Vesicle originally spherical

Type species. *Dictyodiscus vegrandis* sp. nov.

Diagnosis. Vesicle originally spherical, encompassed by a relatively thin, membranous flange developed continuously and more or less uniformly around the equator. Flange and vesicle bearing muri anastomosing to form a reticulum common to both. Excystment apparently by simple linear splitting of vesicle wall (only rarely seen in type species).

Etymology. Greek *dictyon*, net; Latin *discus*, flat, circular plate. Gender masculine.

Discussion. The reticulum is uniform over vesicle and flange. The flange does not constitute a continuously developed equatorial murus; its width exceeds the height of the muri constituting the reticulum.

Comparison. *Dictyodiscus* may be compared with *Cymatiosphaera* O. Wetzel ex Deflandre, 1954, *Dictyotidium* Eisenack emend. Staplin, 1961, *Pterospermella* Eisenack, 1972, and *Duvernaysphaera* Staplin emend. Deunff, 1964. Unlike *Cymatiosphaera* and *Dictyotidium*, both of which are reticulate, the new genus is equipped with an equatorial flange. *Pterospermella* and *Duvernaysphaera* are flanged but *Dictyodiscus* is reticulate on both vesicle and flange. Some specimens of *Pterospermella*, such as those of *P. reticulata* Loeblich & Wicander, 1976, have a reticulate vesicle surface, but the reticulum does not extend on to the equatorial flange (see Loeblich & Wicander, 1976, p. 31, pl. 11, figs 1-4).

