6. Axopodorhabdaceae Bown & Young in Young & Bown (1997)

Type genus: *Axopodorhabdus* Wind *&* Wise *in* Wise *&* Wind, 1977.

Description: Placoliths with two narrow shields and a wide central-area, spanned by a axial crossbars or granular plates with variable numbers of perforations; the central structure generally supports tall, hollow spines. The distal shield is formed from V-unit elements joined along radial or near radial sutures which show little or no imbrication. The proximal shield and inner cycle (if present) are formed from R units. LM image is generally dark, but bright inner-cycles may be developed. The image is characterised by clearly visible shield elements, often giving a 'beaded' appearance around the inner edge of the shields.

Comments: We have abandoned the name Podorhabdaceae in favour of Axopodorhabdaceae due to problems associated with the type genus of the former family *(Podorhabdus, type* species *P grassei* Noel, 1965). Many authors believe that the holotype illustrations of *P grassei* represent a species of *Discorhabdus,* which should then be classified in the Family Biscutaceae. It would be extremely undesirable to use *Podorhabdus* for those coccoliths presently within *Discorhabdus,* or to use Podorhabdaceae to replace Biscutaceae; the informal term podorhabdid is useful, and widely used to describe the coccoliths classified together in the Axopodorhabdaceae.

Young, J. R. & Bown, P. R. 1997. Proposals for a revised classification system for calcareous nannoplankton. *Journal of Nannoplankton Research*, **19(1):** 15-47.