

**Barringtonella** BLACK, 1973

**Description:**

Diagnosis: Elliptical coccoliths consisting of a loxolith-ring with a transverse bridge on the distal side which may carry a central spine, and with a grid-structure on the proximal side consisting of slender bars which converge from the ring towards the centre; in some species they are arranged in four quadrants, in others they may be more or less radial, or they may be pinnately disposed on either side of the long axis of the ellipse.

**Remarks:**

Coccoliths of this kind can be seen under an optical microscope in considerable abundance in washings from the younger beds of the Gault or from the Cambridge Greensand. The first electron-micrograph was published by Stradner; this is a distal view in which the bridge is clearly visible, carrying the stump of a spine, and the proximal grid-structure is revealed through the two large distal windows. Stradner included this form in the genus *Zygoolithus*, but the bridge is on the distal side, a position unknown in any other Mesozoic species customarily referred to that genus.

Bukry (1969) described very similar forms from the Upper Cretaceous of Texas, and referred them to Gartner's genus *Pontolithus*. The resemblance is mainly in the presence of an oblique grid; other structural details do not support this assignment. *Pontolithus* has a well-formed proximal cross, a feature never seen in the forms here included in *Barringtonella*, and there is no evidence that it possesses a distal bridge. The forms now under consideration are generically distinct from *Pontolithus*, and hence a new genus is created for them.

In SE England, *Barringtonella* is abundant near the Albian-Cenomanian boundary, and its presence in quantity is indicative of a late Albian or early Cenomanian age. In Texas, *Barringtonella* has been recorded (as *Pontolithus*) from the Santonian and Campanian (Bukry 1969).

**Type species:**

*Barringtonella bulmanii* BLACK, 1973.

**Author:**

Black M., 1973, p. 108.

**Reference:**

British Lower Cretaceous Coccoliths. I. Gault Clay, Part 2. Palaeontogr. Soc. Monogr., vol. 127, pp. 49-112, text-figs. 39-51, pls. 17-33.