37. **Bucanthis decussatus** Bown (1987)

**Diagnosis.** Large coccolith with a low, sloping protolith rim, a prominent inner cycle and a wide central area spanned by an asymmetric cross, bearing a central spine. The longitudinal bars are parallel but considerably offset, to the left and right of the major axis; and the transverse bars are slightly offset above and below the minor axis.

**Description.** The large protolith rim is low, sloping, relatively narrow and composed of around fifty vertical distal shield elements and thirty-five proximal shield elements which form a tangential inner cycle three-quarters of the height of the distal elements. The wide, open central area is spanned by an asymmetric cross structure which bears a central spine. When viewed distally, the upper longitudinal bar is offset to the left and the lower longitudinal bar to the right of the major axis of the ellipse; the left transverse bar is offset above and the right transverse bar offset below the minor axis of the ellipse. The bars are approximately parallel with the respective principal axes of the ellipse and curve into the centre of the central area to support a central spine. The bars are constructed from numerous, elongate calcite elements.

**Dimensions.** L: (7.0) µm, W: (5.2) µm, RH (1.1) µm.

**Remarks.** *B. decussatus* has only been recorded from Timor and it is probable that this species has a restricted distribution in the southern Tethys-Pacific. Such a large, distinctive coccolith would not have escaped notice in north-west European and Mediterranean-Tethys studies.
**Derivation of name.** From Latin *decussatus*, like the letter X.

**Holotype.** UCL-2117-30, UCL-2117-33 (Pl. 2, figs. 10 and 11).

**Isotype.** UCL-2265-18, UCL-2265-19 (same LM specimen).

**Type locality.** Timor (J237).

**Type level.** Mid-Pliensbachian.