

39. *Calcicalathina praeoblongata* Aguado in Aguado et al. (2000)

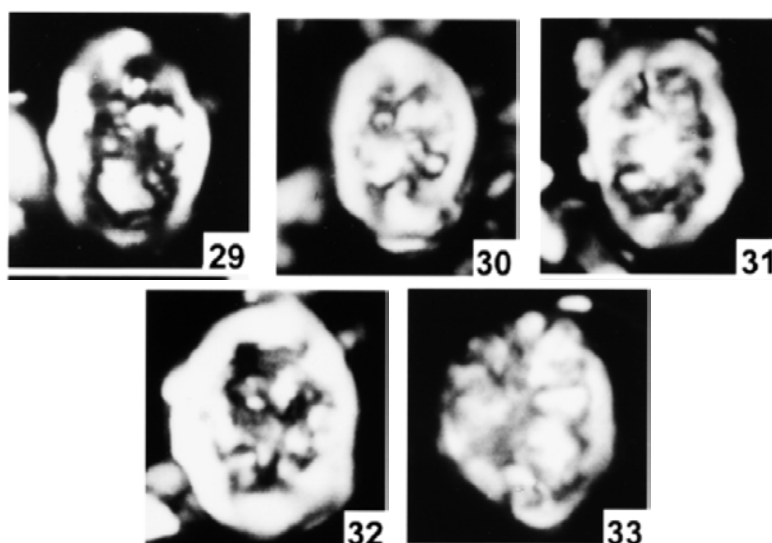


Figure 8, 29–33

1993 *Calcicalathina* sp. A: Bergen, 1994, pl. 1, fig. 11a, b.

Holotype. *Calcicalathina* sp. A, in Bergen (1994, pl. 1, fig. 11).

Type level and locality. Uppermost Berriasian, bed 245, Angles section, SE France.

Paratypes. Figure 8.29–33.

Etymology. After *prae-*, before and *oblongata*, elongated. The name alludes to the fact that the first appearance of this species is earlier than that of *C. oblongata*.

Description. Medium sized to relatively large murolith (maximum diameter between 7–10 μ m) showing an elevated, highly birefringent central area covered by coarse granules. The rim is relatively wide (about 1/4 of the central area width) and is constructed of dextrally imbricated elements when viewed from the distal side.

Remarks. This species can be distinguished from *Calcicalathina oblongata* by having a smaller average size and a wider rim. The maximum size/rim width ratio is about 19.6 for *C. oblongata* and near to 7.6 for *C. praeoblongata*. It differs from *R. asper* in having an elevated, highly birefringent, central area with no central process.

Occurrence. Bergen (1994) reported the lowest occurrence of this species in the lowermost Berriasian of SE France. In the present study, it has been recorded from Upper Berriasian (*T. alpillensis* Subzone) to Lower Valanginian (*Th. pertransiens* Zone) sediments. The forms of late Berriasian to earliest Valanginian age reported as *C. oblongata* in Hoedemaeker & Leereveld (1995) probably correspond to this species. According to Bergen (1994), the highest occurrence of this species is latest Aptian in age.

Aguado, R., Company, M. & Tavera, J.M., 2000. The Berriasian/Valanginian boundary in the Mediterranean region: new data from the Caravaca and Cehegín sections, SE Spain. *Cretaceous Research*, **21**: 1–21.