

10. *Craterolithus* Firth (1988)

Type species: *Craterolithus hoerstgensis* (Müller, 1970) n. comb., emended.

Etymology: Greek, *krater*, bowl or basin; for the resemblance to a shallow, wide basin.

Diagnosis: A placolith consisting of a bicyclic proximal shield and a unicyclic distal shield, which have concave sides facing away from each other.

Description: Proximal shield smaller of the two shields and contains two cycles of elements; inner cycle consists of narrow, radially arranged elements; outer cycle contains same number of elements, which curve clockwise when viewed from proximal side; distal shield contains one cycle of elements, fewer in number than proximal shield, which connect directly to inner cycle of proximal shield; broad, slightly imbricate elements curve in same direction as those of proximal shield, and project away from proximal shield; resulting distal shield distally concave, with an outer rim that forms a broad, flat shelf around medial concavity; in center of concavity, elements meet to form a low central knob, which may contain a hole in its center.

Discussion: The genus *Iselithina* differs from *Craterolithus* in several respects. The proximal shield in *Iselithina* contains only one cycle of radial elements, which may have narrow slots between them. The distal shield of *Iselithina* is supported by spokes, rather than being in direct contact with the proximal shield. Also, the distal shield elements are proximally concave, rather than distally concave.

Firth, J.V., 1988. *Craterolithus*: a new calcareous nannofossil genus from the Oligocene of the Labrador Sea. *Journal of Paleontology*, **62(6)**: 853-854.