**Dictyococcites**  

**Description:**

Emended diagnosis: Elliptic placoliths with a closed central area in line with the distal shield.

Description: The elliptic placoliths of specimens in this genus have a large central area which is closed or virtually closed in line with the distal shield. The distal shield is bright between crossed nics. The rim elements of both shields can be imbricated or non-imbricated. The central area of the distal shield frequently shows a median slit or furrow, or a minute pore. The large central area of the proximal shield is occupied by a grid of calcite bars meeting along the major diameter of the ellipse in well preserved specimens. This character may take the form of a reticulate or lacy net, but it is frequently destroyed by dissolution or mechanical breakdown.

**Remarks:**

This emendation of *Dictyococcites* is justified for several reasons. Black (1967) described and typified the genus *Dictyococcites*, but he did not provide any description or illustration of the distal shield or its central area. This led several workers (e.g. Stradner & Edwards, 1968, Roth, 1970, Haq, 1971) to regard *Dictyococcites* as a junior synonym of *Reticulofenestra*. Furthermore, Black (1968, p. 800) recombined the type species he had designated for *Dictyococcites* into *Tremalithus*. In a later publication Black (1971, p. 614) suggested that *Dictyococcites* probably is a synonym of *Tremalithus*, which was described by Kamptner (1948). But, *Tremalithus* is an illegitimate name (Loeblich & Tappan, 1966). Obviously, the status of *Dictyococcites* sensu Black must be considered to be in considerable doubt.

There are mainly two reasons for retaining the generic name *Dictyococcites*. First, it is still frequently in use and secondly, it is also frequently used in the sense of the emended description, which clearly separates taxa of this genus from those of *Reticulofenestra*.

**Author:**


**Reference:**