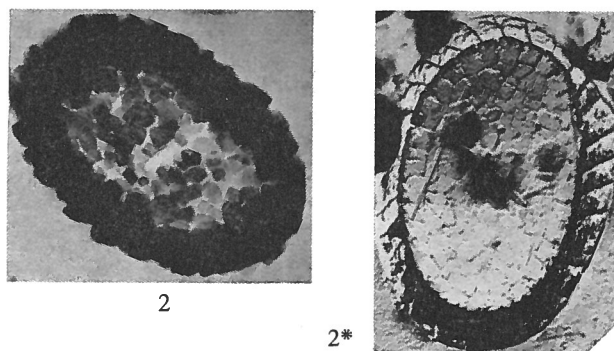


**Discolithus crystallinus** PIENAAR, 1968



Figs. 2, 2\* — *Discolithus crystallinus* sp. nov., non-replicated; 2) x 14,400;  
2\*) x 14,600.

**Description:**

Diagnosis: Elliptical one-shielded coccolith composed of 24-40 overlapping plates. The central area is infilled with crystals of calcium carbonate arranged in an irregular order.

Description: The average number of plates is between 28 and 30.

Size: Longitudinal axis, 2.4-2.75  $\mu$ . Transverse axis, 1.4-7.0  $\mu$ . Width of shield area, 0.25-0.45  $\mu$ .

**Remarks:**

Occasionally specimens of *Discolithus crystallinus* were found with a distinct row of crystals following the outline of the central area. Their appearance was almost like the beginning of a second shield. In addition some forms have larger crystals of calcium carbonate covering the smaller crystals. This species is easily recognized by its single shield and the infilled central area.

**Type level:**

Cretaceous (Maastrichtian).

**Type locality:**

Borehole 'A', Lake Sibaya, Zululand, South Africa. Assemblage 1382, depth 280 ft.

**Depository:**

Department of Plant Biology, University of Natal, Durban, South Africa. Holotype: figs. 2, 2\*.

**Author:**

Pienaar R.N., 1968, p. 364; pl. 69, fig. 2; pl. 70, fig. 2.

**Reference:**

Upper Cretaceous Coccolithophorids from Zululand, South Africa. *Palaeontology*, vol. 11, part 3, pp. 361-367, pls. 69-71.