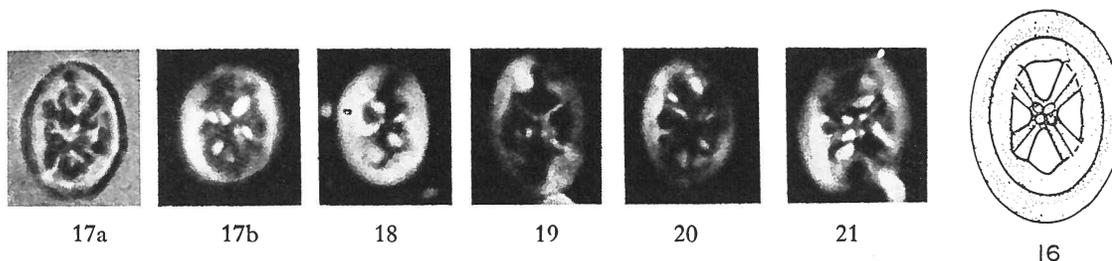


Discolithus fessus STOVER, 1966



FIGS. 17a,b, 18-21 — *Discolithus fessus* STOVER, n. sp. x 2500 ca. 17, holotype, USNM 41531; a, bright field; b, x-nicols. 18-21, paratypes, USNM 41532-41535; specimens illustrating variability in central structures. Specimens of figures 17-19, sample 7; 20-21, sample 6.

FIG. 16 — *Discolithus fessus* STOVER. Distal view. Orientation: 0°-90°. The drawing is based primarily on the appearance of the microfossil under crossed nicols and with a Quartz Red I accessory plate. The drawing represents a composite of morphologic features observed on several well-preserved specimens of the species.

Description:

The coccoliths are elliptical in proximal or distal view and have a smooth rim of medium width. The axial structure consists of crossbars arranged as an « x », with each arm of the « x » composed of two pieces of equal or nearly equal size. Between the crossbars and the inner surface of the rim is a ring of variable width. This rim may be narrow, leaving between it and the crossbars relatively large openings, or it may be wide, thereby almost completely filling the space not occupied by the crossbars. Four minute calcareous pieces are commonly superimposed on the center of the « x ». Under crossed nicols, the rim appears to consist of two concentric rings of about equal width. The curvature of extinction lines across the rim is sinistral in distal view. Length 7-10 μ , width 6-8 μ , height about 2 μ .

Remarks:

Comparison: This species is distinguished from *Discolithus bicrescenticus* in having crossbars rather than a central boss.

Remarks: Division of the rim into two concentric rings is generally discernible only on large specimens. The crossbars commonly fail to meet centrally and differ in width among specimens of the same size.

Type level:

Coniacian.

Occurrence: upper Cenomanian - Santonian.

Type locality:

Exposure east of National Highway 327, just north of Noailles, France; Coniacian (Senonian); chalk (sample 7). Le Bois de Molle, between Beauvais and Méru along National Highway 327, France; Coniacian; chalk (sample 6).

Depository:

U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. Holotype: USNM 41531; paratypes: USNM 41532-41535.

Author:

Stover L. E., 1966, p. 142; pl. 2, figs. 17a, b, 18-21; pl. 8, fig. 16.

Reference:

Cretaceous coccoliths and associated nannofossils from France and the Netherlands. *Micro-paleontology*, vol. 12, n° 2, pp. 133-167, pls. 1-9.