

27. *Ectalithus* Aubry in Aubry & Bord (2009)

Type species: *Coccolithus crassus* Bramlette and Sullivan 1961

Etymology: From *ektadios* (Gr. outstretched) and *lithos* (Gr. stone) in reference to the flat, almost horizontally spread shields of the placolith.

Description: Placolith with shields that are flat rather than concave-convex, extending outward at a low angle. A large space separates the two shields, giving thickness to the placoliths. Shield elements are irregularly imbricated clockwise. Sutures between them are straight. The central area is occupied by a prominent cycle (wall) of elements that extends far above the crest of the margin, forming a distal collar. The wall elements are elongate and slope steeply inward and proximally, delineating a central opening of variable diameter.

Differences: The placoliths of *Ectalithos* differ from placoliths in other genera in having flat rather than curved shields, and in having a prominent wall.

Remarks: It is unclear whether the proximal shield is mono- or bicyclic. If monocyclic, it may be necessary to remove the genus from the Family Coccolithaceae and introduce a new family for it.

Species: *Ectalithus crassus* (Bramlette and Sullivan) Aubry n. c. (= *Coccolithus crassus* Bramlette and Sullivan 1961, p. 139, pl. 1, figs. 4a–4d). *Ectalithus simplex* (Haq) Aubry n. c. (= *Cycloplacolithella simplex* Haq 1968, p. 25, 26, pl. 8, fig. 8). *Ectalithus tritus* (Roth) Aubry n. c. (= *Coccolithus tritus* Roth, 1970, p. 840, pl. 1, fig. 1). *Ectalithus floralis* (Wei and Wise) Aubry n. c. (= *Coccolithus pelagicus* [Wallich] Schiller, 1930, subsp. *floralis* Wei and Wise 1992, p. 514, 516, pl. 2, figs. 8, 9).

Aubry, M.-P., & Bord, D., 2009. Reshuffling the cards in the photic zone at the Eocene/Oligocene boundary. In Koeberl, C., & Montanari, A. (Eds.). *The Late Eocene Earth—Hothouse, Icehouse, and Impacts: Geological Society of America Special Paper*, **452**: 279–301.