
**Fig. 11, 9-12**

**Diagnosis:** A species of *Gorkaea* with small central area enclosed by a short and thick transverse bridge whose ends do not overlap with the wall.

**Derivation of name:** From the Latin *operio*, to close, referring to the bridge closing the central area.

**Holotype:** Fig. 11 (9).

**Type level:** Upper Albian, Zone NLK4A (JAKUBOWSKI 1987)

**Type locality:** British Sector of the North Sea area.

**Description:** Elliptical coccolith made of a zeugoid outer wall, wide inner wall, proximal rim and a short thick bridge which shows signs of a distal process. The inner wall and the bridge are birefringent, whereas the proximal rim and the thin outer wall are non-birefringent under cross-polarised light. The ends of the transverse bridge do not onlap with the wall.

**Dimension of holotype:** Length: 6.1 µm, width: 4.1 µm.

**Remarks:** This species is easily distinguished from *G. pseudanthophorus* in having a smoother appearance of the inner wall under cross-polarised light, and a wider bridge which does not onlap with the wall.

**Occurrence:** *G. operio* is recorded in the upper Albian (Zones NLK1-NLK4A) of the North Sea area.