

Markalius BRAMLETTE & MARTINI, 1964

Description:

Coccoliths with two circular plates rather closely appressed, and connected by a large central « tube » which is usually filled with radially oriented calcite. The two plates are relatively thick and the radial striae coarse and strongly curving dextrally on distal side, with the smaller plate on the concave (proximal) side. Orientation of elements of the plates is such as to show weak birefringence under crossed nicols, but the calcite filling of the central connecting part shows strong birefringence with orientation of calcite elements such as to produce a conspicuous black cross. This central area varies markedly in size and the filling is broken out or lacking in many specimens, as in the electron microscope pictures.

Remarks:

The general form is similar to *Cyclococcolithus*, but with more robust and strongly striate plates and large complex connecting tube. The stereoscopic pictures of the carbon replica of a specimen under the electron microscope show a very complex and distinctive construction of the plates and central connecting part.

Type species:

Cyclococcolithus leptoporus MURRAY & BLACKMAN var. *inversus* DEFLANDRE, 1954 (part: Ann. Pal., vol. 40, p. 150, pl. 9, figs. 4, 5, not figs. 6, 7).

Author:

Bramlette M. N. and Martini E., 1964, p. 302.

Reference:

The great change in calcareous nannoplankton fossils between the Maestrichtian and Danian. Micropaleontology, vol. 10, n° 3, pp. 291-322, pls. 1-7.