Maslovella blackii PIENAAR, 1968

**Description:**

Diagnosis: Elliptical two-shielded coccolith. The distal shield is larger than the proximal shield and is composed of 17-27 plates. The central area is completely infilled with crystals of calcium carbonate.

Description: The plates situated at the longitudinal polar region are larger and wedge-shaped while the remaining plates are rectangular in shape and overlap to varying degrees. The structure of the proximal shield is not known but it is thought to be similar to that of the distal shield. The central area is large, elliptical, and completely infilled.

Size: Longitudinal axis, 1.75-2.8 μ. Transverse axis, 1.5-2.0 μ. Width of shield area, 0.5-0.6 μ.

**Remarks:**

During the study of the South African sediments a number of coccoliths were found which were similar to the type description of the genus *Maslovella* (Black) TAPPAN & LOEBLICH, 1966, except for a few minor differences. Some had only fourteen plates in the distal shield; others had only one well-developed shield and a robust rim in the place of the second shield. The patterning of the central area also varies by having slightly regular to irregular crystals infilling the central area or with two rows of crystals meeting along the longitudinal axis of the ellipse. These forms are thought to be intermediates or broken forms and are all grouped together into *Maslovella blackii*. *Maslovella blackii* differs *M. africana* in that the latter form possesses a distinct asymmetry of the two shields, whereas the former species is symmetrical.

**Type level:**

Upper Cretaceous.

**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: plate 69, figs. 1, 5.

Author:
Pienaar R.N., 1968, p. 366; pl. 69, figs. 1, 5.

Reference: