Melobesia unicellularis CARTER, 1871

The generic name as to type applies to a member of the Corallinaceae (Rhodophyta), but the following species probably is coccolithophorid. A.R. Loeblich, Jr. and H. Tappan, 1966, Phycologia, vol. 5, nº 2/3, p. 149.

Description:

Cell calcareous, discoidal, obtusely elliptical, transparent, convexo-concave; consisting of two convexo-concave disks, one a little larger than the other, the larger one flattened on its convexity, an receiving the smaller one in its concavity; enclosing a granular protoplasmic disk with oval transparent area (nuclear utricle?), and within this a single granule (nucleus?); the granule subject to 1, 2, 4 or more division. Mode of propagation unknown.

Size: 1–1700th of an inch long and about 1–12.000th of an inch thick.

Remarks:

There appears to be no difference between this species and the oval one of the Atlantic bed. It is also accompanied by the smaller and more simple forms designated by Professor Huxley « discoliths ». (fig. 2, a, b, c), which, for reasons that will appear hereafter, I am inclined to consider immature or young specimens of *M. unicellularis*. But there is another kind present in the mud of the Atlantic bed, which, although less plentiful, is, from its circular form (Huxley, fig. 4, a, b, c), distinctly different from the oval *M. unicellularis;* and for this form I propose the following name and description. (See *Melobesia discus* CARTER, 1871).

Type level:

Recent.

Occurrence: marine; accumulating in beds. Atlantic Ocean bottom; Laminarian zone, south coast of Devon. Probably universal.

Type locality:

South coast of Devon, England.

Depository:

Not given.

Author:

Carter H.J., 1871, p. 186.

Reference:

On *Melobesia unicellularis*, better known as the coccolith. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., Ser. 4, vol. 7, pp. 184-189.