**Microrhabdulus belgicus** Hay & Towe, 1963

**Description:**

Diagnosis — A species of *Microrhabdulus* distinguished by evenly spaced cycles of subrhombooidal nodes.

Description — An elongate cylindrical rod, about ten times as long as wide, faintly grooved longitudinally, with rings of eight rhomboidal nodes $\frac{1}{4}$ micron wide spaced $\frac{1}{2}$ micron apart over entire length. Ends truncate.

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*Farinacci, 1969 - I/162*
Remarks:

The two previously described species, *Microrhabdulus decoratus* DEFLANDRE and *Microrhabdulus helicoideus* DEFLANDRE, are both smooth, lacking the circlets of nodes characteristic of the new species. Diligent search of preparations of the sample, using an optical microscope with fluorite objectives, has failed to reveal the new species, even though several specimens have been seen and photographed in the electron microscope. The small size of the object, and the minute size of the characteristic nodes, which are at the limit of resolution of the optical microscope, make the new species difficult to find using visible light. In the sample from Folx-les-Caves there are many tiny crystals and carbonate fragments approximately the size and shape of the new species, adding to the difficulty. All objects showing an unusual pattern in polarized light were examined carefully, but none of them resembled the new species. *Microrhabdulus decoratus* DEFLANDRE has been found in the same sample using the light microscope, but has not been identified with the electron microscope. It is very rare in the sample and can be located only because of the spectacular "stadia-rod" pattern that it shows in polarized light. Careful inspection of a number of specimens of *M. decoratus* with phase-contrast microscopy indicates that the species is smooth, as Deflandre stated, and thus differs from the new species.

Type level:

Lower Campanian.

Distribution — Thus far the new species has been found only at Folx-les-Caves, but the other species of the genus have been reported by Deflandre (1959) from several Senonian and Tertiary localities. Specimens in Tertiary deposits are rare and probably reworked from the Cretaceous.

Type locality:

"Caves avec rivière souterraine", Folx-les-Caves, Belgium.

Depository:

Department of Geology, University of Illinois, Urbana. Holotype: UI-EML 2042A.

Author:

Hay W.W. and Towe K.M., 1963, p. 95; pl. 1, fig. 1.

Reference: