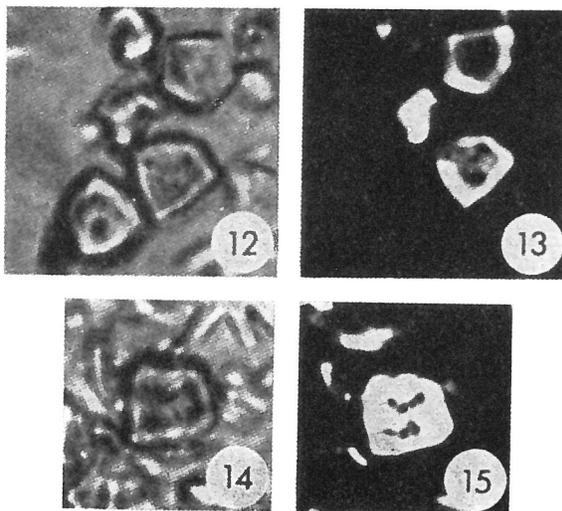


Minylitha convallis BUKRY, 1973



Figs. 12-15 — *Minylitha convallis* n. sp. 12) Group of three, USNM 183532-183534, DSDP 15-5-1 (79-80 cm), BF. 13) Same, XN. 14) Holotype, USNM 183535, DSDP 15-5-1 (79-80 cm), BF. 15) Same, XN (BF = Bright-field; PC = Phase-contrast; XN = Cross-polarized).

Description:

Thick, polygonal, plate-like elements with central depression and raised rim. Mainly four-sided with two adjacent sides long and the other two short. Moderately bright to dim in cross-polarized light; slight birefringence with four faint positions alternating with four moderately bright positions in a revolution of the microscope stage.

Dimensions: 5 to 7 microns.

Remarks:

Some specimens have a fifth side developed, but these represent a minor part of the population of *Minylitha convallis*. On four-sided specimens, the angle formed by the two long sides ranges from 55 degrees to 80 degrees. *M. convallis* most closely resembles the form of isolated crystallites from the pentoliths of *Braarudosphaera bigelowi*, which are four-side plates having an angle of 72 degrees between the two long sides. This resemblance is so suggestive that extensive search of open-ocean core samples, where *M. convallis* occurs, was carried out in an effort to locate an intact specimen. None was found, nor were any *Braarudosphaera*, which are generally absent in oceanic assemblages. The marginal rim, central depression, and lowering on some specimens of the short-side rims out of the plane of the long-side rims help distinguish *M. convallis* from *B. bigelowi* crystallites, which are flat and planar.

Type level:

Upper Miocene.

Occurrence: *M. convallis* occurs most abundantly in upper Miocene sediment from DSDP 15 in the South Atlantic. It is also present at equatorial Pacific Sites DSDP 62.1, DSDP 155, and DSDP 158 in the lower *Discoaster quinqueramus* Zone and *Discoaster neohamatus* Zone of late Miocene age.

Type locality:

South Atlantic Ocean, DSDP 15-5-1(70-80 cm).

Depository:

United States National Museum.

Holotype: USNM 183535, figs. 14-15; paratypes: USNM 183532 to 183534, and 183536 to 183537.

Author:

Bukry D., 1973, p. 679; pl. 3, figs. 12-18.

Reference:

Coccolith Stratigraphy, Eastern Equatorial Pacific, Leg 16 Deep Sea Drilling Project. Initial Reports of the Deep Sea Drilling Project, vol. 16, n° 26, pp. 653-711, 5 pls., 4 text-figs., 6 tabs.