

157. *Ommatolithus* Shafik (1989)

**Name:** *Ommatos* (Greek) eye; *lithos* (Greek), stone.

**Type species:** *Ommatolithus australiensis* gen. et sp. nov.

**Diagnosis:** Cyrtolith with elliptical basal shield, and a matching, elliptical, simple hollow cupola being usually the dominant feature. Distally, the basal shield consists of three concentric cycles (S1, S2 & S3 in Fig. 2), and at least the arched part of the cupola is constructed of laths which are spirally arranged in a whirl pattern. Perforations in the cupola are usually distinct.

**Remarks:** Strongly elliptical forms, with two sides almost parallel, are not uncommon. The three cycles of the shield, best seen in a slightly oblique distal view, resemble those of *Blackites* and *Amitha* gen. nov. The intermediate cycle (S2) is usually broader than that in *Amitha*, and may develop narrow slits.

**Differentiation:** *Ommatolithus* differs from *Blackites* Hay & Towe emended Stradner (in Stradner & Edwards, 1968), in being elliptical, having distally enclosed cupola instead of open-ended tubular shaft, and in lacking the two cycles present at the base of the shaft of *Blackites* (see Remarks under *B. spinosus*). *Ommatolithus* differs from *Amitha* gen. nov., *Notiocyrtolithus* gen. nov. and *Naninfula* Perch-Nielsen, in having a simple central structure (cupola), which lacks explicit subdivisions.

*Notiocyrtolithus* gen. nov. and *Naninfula* Perch-Nielsen also differ in the construction of their basal shield.

Shafik, S. 1989. Some new calcareous nannofossils from Upper Eocene and Lower Oligocene sediments in the Otway Basin, southeastern Australia. *Alcheringa*, **13(1)**: 69-83.