

35. *Ophiaster* Gran (1912) emend. Manton & Oates (1983)

Emended diagnosis: Cells spherical to ovoid, with two flagella and a short haptonema. Ordinary coccoliths normal elliptical discs probably arranged in a single layer and with a few (4-6 fide Gaarder) around the flagellar area bearing centrally placed spines each of about coccolith length; at the posterior pole a star-like appendage with flexible arms, 5-8 (or 5-11 fide Gaarder) in number, composed of elongated and transformed coccoliths linked together by their narrow ends and attached to the periplast by differently shaped proximal links. Small unmineralized elliptical scales present beneath the ordinary coccoliths together with unmineralized membranes individually attached to the under sides of the coccolith discs.

Type species: *O. hydroideus* (Lohm.) Lohm., and two or more other species.

Distribution: worldwide but mainly in fairly warm seas.

Manton, I. & Oates, K. (1983). Nanoplankton from the Galapagos Islands: Two genera of spectacular coccolithophorids (*Ophiaster* and *Calciopappus*) with special emphasis on unmineralized periplast components. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London B: Biological Sciences*, **300**: 435-462.