Orastrum asarotum WIND & WISE, 1976

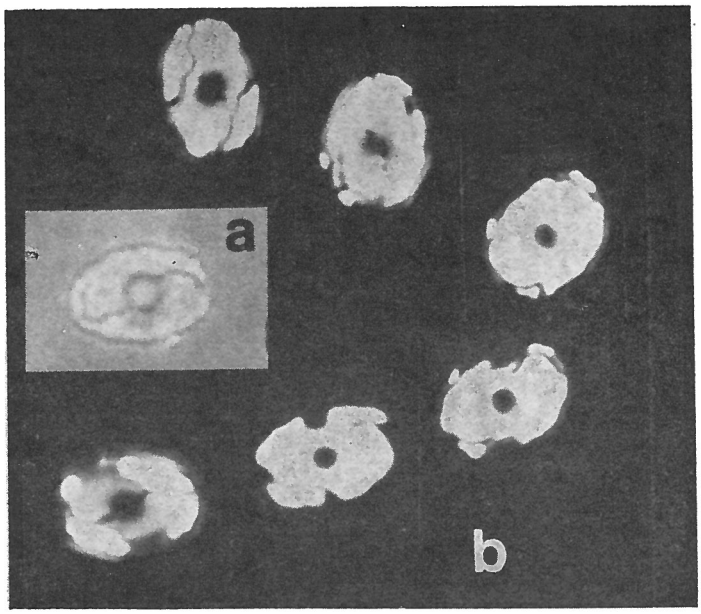

Fig. 1 — *Orastrum asarotum* n. gen., n. sp., phase-contrast (a) and crossed-polarized light (b). Sample 327A-12, CC, × 3800. Holotype USNM 239509.

Description:

Diagnosis: Rimmed elliptical form constructed of four principal central calcite segments and several smaller outer segments. Generally one or two pairs of segments fill most of the central area.

Description: Centers of specimens constructed of two pairs of segments; one large pair forms a diagonal bridge across the central area. Suture between these two segments passes through the centre of the specimen and at the mid-point is enlarged by an elongate slit or larger circular perforation. Smaller segments lie on either side of this broad diagonal bridge, between the two massive segments and the rim structure. Elements of the second principal pair may be nearly equal in size to the larger pair or be extremely reduced.

Size: Holotype: 4.7 μm maximum diameter; Paratypes: 4.4 to 5.6 μm maximum diameter.

Remarks:

Species name is Latin *asarotum* (floor laid in mosaic). Although the relative dominance of principal component plates varies from specimen to specimen,

the basic model is always followed; variation in appearance is viewed as intraspecific variation.
The complexity of construction and the resulting characteristic appearance in polarized light distinguishes this species. *Orastrum asarotum* WIND & WISE, n. sp. differs from *Orastrum campanensis* (CEPEK) WIND & WISE, n. comb. in the near-equal size and symmetrical deployment of major component plates in the latter species.

Type level:

Maastrichtian.

Type locality:

Falkland Plateau. DSDP Leg 36. Sample 327A-12, CC.

Depository:

U. S. National Museum, Washington D. C.
Holotype: USNM 239509; paratypes: USNM 239510-239511.

Author:

Wise S. W. and Wind F. H., 1976, p. 303; pl. 35, figs. 1-3.

Reference:

Mesozoic and Cenozoic calcareous nannofossils recovered by DSDP Leg 36 drilling on the Falkland Plateau, southwest Atlantic sector of the southern ocean. Initial Reports of the Deep Sea Drilling Project, vol. 36, pp. 269-491, 89 pls., 3 figs., 7 tbs.