

Pennalithus

Compiled data

Citation: *Pennalithus* Varol 2025

Taxonomic rank: genus

Type species: *Triquetrorhabdulus rugosus* Bramlette & Wilcoxon, 1967

Described on page(s) : 46

Original Description

Diagnosis: An elongated nannofossil with two unequal blades in the same plane and a median ridge. One end of the blades is often more pointed than the other. The surface of the wider blade (dentate blade) is frequently ornamented with transverse striations. The median ridge may be straight or curved.

Etymology:

From the Latin *penna*, wing, feather – refers to its blades.

Extra details from original publication

Optical properties: In the plan view, when the ridge is aligned with the microscope axis, *Pennalithus* is in constant extinction, with the optic axis perpendicular to the microscope stage in this orientation (Plate 19, Figs. 1-3, 5-7 and Plate 20, Figs. 1, 3, 5-7). *Pennalithus* displays high birefringence in the side view, parallel extinction (extinction angle is 0°), and exhibits length-slow (+) elongation (Plate 19, Figs. 9-11, 13-15 and Plate 20, Figs. 9-16).

Remarks: *Pennalithus* differs from *Orthorhabdus* by having parallel (straight) extinction, whereas the latter has inclined (oblique) extinction in their side view. Moreover, both ends of *Pennalithus* are pointed, whereas *Orthorhabdus* has one end pointed and the other truncated.

References: ?

Varol, O. (2025). A practical guide to optical studies of calcareous nannofossils. *Grzybowski Foundation Special Publication*. **29**: 1-222. [gs](#)



Pennalithus: Farinacci & Howe Catalog entry.

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