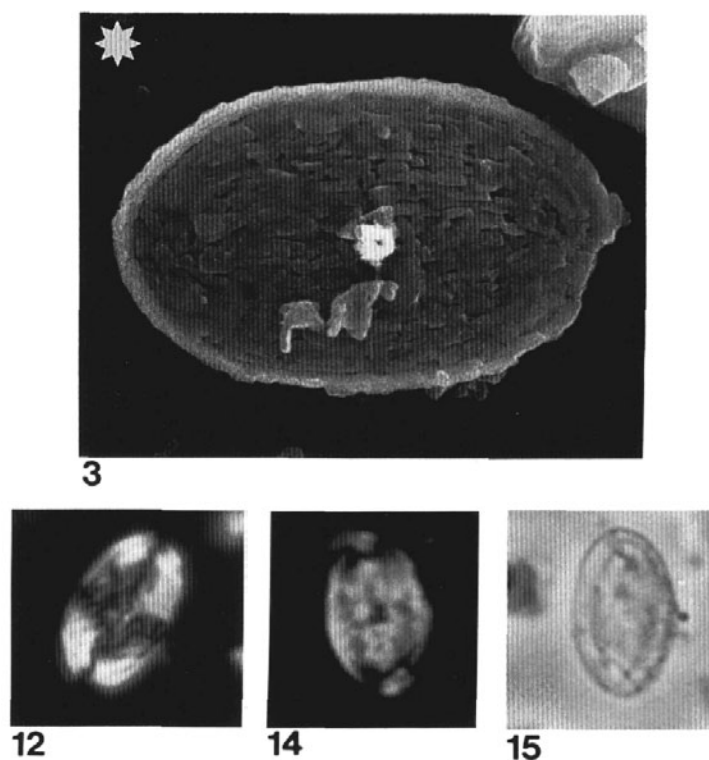


163. *Percivalia arata* de Kaenel & Bergen (1996)



Pl. 8, figs 3, 12, 14, 15

Diagnosis: A medium-sized species of *Percivalia* with a narrow rim and a central area constructed by numerous, bladed elements arranged in longitudinal rows. A tiny central spine is present.

Description: The narrowly elliptical murolith has a narrow rim. The distal shield is low and very narrow; it is constructed of numerous, imbricated elements. The central area is filled with several longitudinal rows of upright, plate-shaped elements. A cycle of elements visible at the outer margin of the central area may represent the proximal shield. A tiny spine projects distally from the center. The rim exhibits a faint birefringence and the central area is dark when specimens are oriented 45° to the polarizing direction. When parallel to the nicols, the central area becomes faint to weakly birefringent. Distinct longitudinal furrows separate the rim and central area.

Size: 6.0 to 7.0 μm (holotype: 6.7 μm).

Differentiation: *Percivalia arata* is the only known Jurassic species of *Percivalia*. It is distinguished from *Rhagodiscus nebulosus* Bralower, 1989 (in Bralower et al., 1989) and *Percivalia fenestrata* (Worsley, 1971) Wise, 1983 by the orientation and optical properties of its central area elements (i.e., the longitudinal furrows).

Derivation of name: From Latin, *arare*: to plow.

Holotype: Plate 8, Figure 3.

Type locality: ODP Site 901, Iberia Abyssal Plain.

Type level: ODP Sample 149-901A-5R-1, 31 cm; early Tithonian

Occurrence: Rare in Tithonian sediments from ODP Hole 901 A.

de Kaenel, E. & Bergen, J.A. 1996: Mesozoic calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy from sites 897, 899, and 901, Iberia Abyssal Plain: New biostratigraphic evidence. Whitmarsh, R.B., Sawyer, D.S., Klaus, A., and Masson, D.G. (Eds.), 1996, *Proceedings of the Ocean Drilling Program, Scientific Results*, **149**: 27-59.