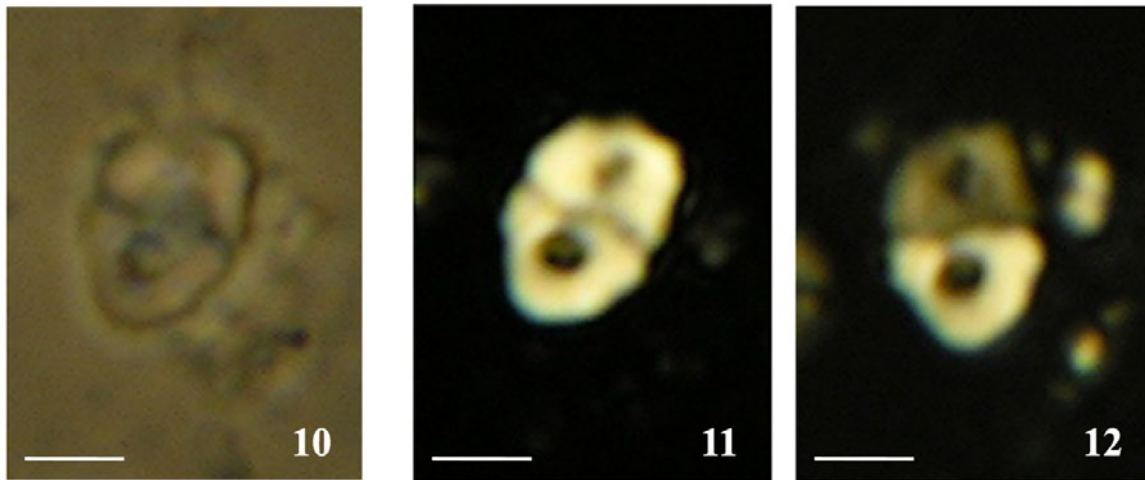


167. *Pharus evanescens* Blair & Watkins (2009)



Pl. 1, figs 10–12

Description: This elliptical coccolith is composed of two, nearly symmetrical calcite blocks separated by a distinct, sinuous suture. Each block contains a small, central circular opening (~1 μm in width). There is no central spine. These two blocks exhibit different optical properties in cross-polarized light. When the major axis is oriented north to south, one calcite block appears dull or extinct, while the second exhibits pronounced birefringence.

Etymology: *evanescens* – Latin for disappearing

Holotype: Plate 1, Figs. 10–12

Holotype size: 4.4 μm in length; 3.2 μm in width

Holotype material: Chalk from Locality 13 of the Smoky Hill Member type area (northwestern Kansas)

Occurrence: Six specimens were observed from Locality 13

Remarks: *Pharus evanescens* differs from *Pharus simulacrum* because it lacks a central spine and does not have calcite blocks that act optically similar. Wise and Wind (1977) assign a Campanian age for *P. simulacrum*. This species was not observed in Coniacian and Santonian sediments at Locality 13 and Ten Mile Creek sections. *Pharus evanescens* is seen in the lower Santonian at Locality 13 and is an extremely rare taxon.

Blair, S.A. & Watkins, D.K., 2009. High-resolution calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy for the Coniacian/Santonian Stage boundary, Western Interior Basin. *Cretaceous Research*, **30(2)**: 367-384.