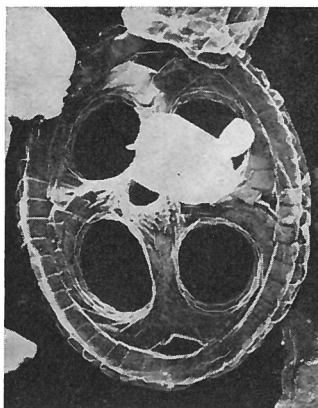


**Podorhabdus gracilis** BLACK, 1972



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Fig. 4 — *Podorhabdus gracilis* sp. nov. Holotype, distal view. Upper Gault, Bed IX, Folkestone (H.1019). SM 28138, x 6,500.

**Description:**

**Diagnosis:** A species of *Podorhabdus* with a slender petaloid rim and buttresses which bifurcate near the rim leaving a small opening in line with the main arm of each buttress.

**Description:** The petaloid rim is exceptionally narrow,  $0.7 \mu$  or about 9% of the length of the coccolith. The windows occupy a large part of the central area. The buttresses are slender and bifurcate near the petaloid rim, the branches curving round to frame the windows, and leaving small open gaps between the points of bifurcation and the rim. The frames of the windows are covered by small rhomboidal scales which become elongated on the buttresses. The spine is cylindrical and thin-walled. The proximal surface is unknown.

Measurements (in microns):

	d	d'	c	c'	n
Holotype: H.1019 28138 distal view	7.6	6.0	6.3	4.6	48

d, d' = major and minor diameters respectively of the distal shield or distal surface.

c, c' = major and minor diameters of the central area.

n = number of component elements in the distal shield, loxolith-ring or other marginal structure.

**Remarks:**

*P. gracilis* differs from all other known species of *Podorhabdus* in the bifurcation of the buttresses at their peripheral ends. On theoretical grounds, Noël envisaged such a condition as a probable evolutionary link between *Podorhabdus* and *Octopodorhabdus*, in the latter genus splitting of the buttresses has progressed further to give eight equal sized windows. From this point of view *P. gracilis* could be regarded as a primitive species of *Octopodorhabdus* in which the departure from the *Podorhabdus*-pattern has not gone very far.

**Type level:**

Upper Gault (Upper Albian).

Occurrence: A single specimen from the Upper Gault, Bed IX, at Folkestone.

**Type locality:**

Copt Point, Folkestone (Southeastern England).

**Depository:**

Collection of electron micrographs at the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge.

Holotype: SM 28138; fig. 4; from the Upper Gault, Bed IX, at Folkestone (H.1019).

**Author:**

Black M., 1972, p. 35; pl. 13, fig. 4.

**Reference:**

British Lower Cretaceous Coccoliths. I. Gault Clay. *Palaeontogr. Soc. Monogr.*: (1), pp. 1-48, pls. 1-16, 31 text-figs., 2 tabs.