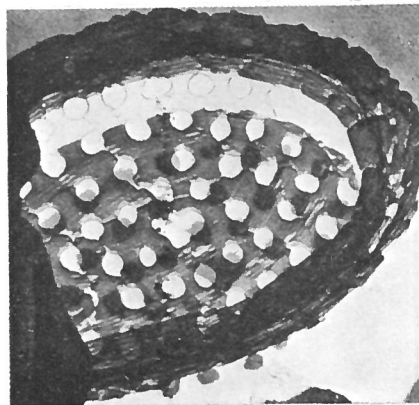


***Pontosphaera discopora* SCHILLER, 1925 emend. BURNS, 1973**

- 1925 *Pontosphaera discopora* n. sp., Schiller, 11, pl. 1, fig. 4. Arch. Protistenk., vol. 51.  
1955 *Pontosphaera discopora* SCHILLER, Halldal & Markali, 19, pl. 27. Avh. Norske Vid.-Akad. Oslo, Mat.-Naturv. Kl. 1.  
1969 *Pontosphaera discopora* SCHILLER, Hay & Boudreaux, 271, pl. 6, figs. 1, 2. Rev. Esp. Micropal., vol. 1, n. 3.  
1970 *Pontosphaera alta* n. sp. Roth, 859, pl. 9, figs. 2, 3. Ecl. geol. Helv., vol. 63, n. 3.



6

Fig. 6 - *Pontosphaera discopora* SCHILLER, 1925 emend., distal surface of eroded specimen,  $\times 10800$ .

**Description:**

**Diagnosis:** Elliptical concave-convex criboliths with a perforate central area, possessing only three regular concentric rings of perforations.

**Description:** The criboliths are regularly elliptical in outline (Pl. 1, fig. 6) with flared lamellar flange and two-layered central area typical of the genus *Pontosphaera*. The central area has a marginal imperforate band inside which three definite concentric rings of perforations are situated (Pl. 1, fig. 6). Inside these three rings several more perforations may be present but these are always randomly arranged. A tortuous central suture line transverses approximately two-thirds of the major axis.

**Dimensions:** Major axis diameter from outer edge of flange, 6.0-7.6  $\mu$ .

**Remarks:**

This species was originally described by Schiller as possessing « rows of fine pores ». The present study has indicated that several species fit into this rather vague description. Hay and Boudreaux (1969: 271, pl. vi, figs. 1, 2) recognised a coccolith form under the specific name *Pontosphaera discopora* SCHILLER, which possessed three discernible rings or rows of perforations and corresponded in morphology to the present specimens. This form is therefore retained as *P. discopora*, but emended to more critically define the range of structures allowable within the species and thus prevent any confusion with other similar but separate species.

*Pontosphaera alta* ROTH, 1970 bears close resemblance to *P. discopora* emend. but was reported to differ from this species by its pores being « short conical tubular protrusions on the distal side » and « not surrounded » by crater-like depressions » as those of *P. discopora* figured by Hay and Boudreaux (1969). The results of the present investigation however show that there is a large range of perforation size and shape within any species. The minor differences accorded as separating *P. alta* from *P. discopora* emend. are not sufficient to distinguish it as a new species. It is therefore included with the variation of *P. discopora* emend.

**Type level:**

Recent.

**Type locality:**

South West Pacific Ocean.

**Depository:**

New Zealand Oceanographic Institute.

**Author:**

Burns D.A., 1973, p. 151; pl. 1, fig. 6.

**Reference:**

Structural Analysis of Flanged Coccoliths in Sediments from the South West Pacific Ocean.  
Revista Española de Micropaleontología, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 147-160, 2 pls., 1 text-fig.