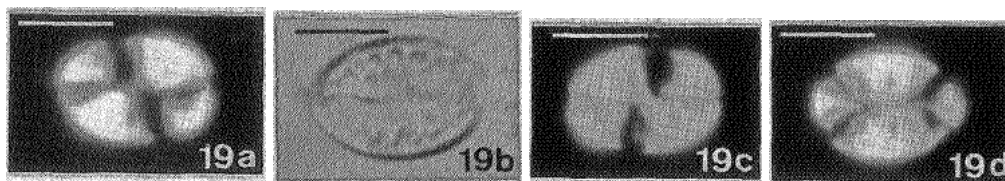


37. *Pontosphaera kingii* Steurbaut (1990)



Pl. 3, fig. 19

Scale bar represents 5 μ m. Roubaix Clay Member; nanno-zone IV and V. Fig. 19: *Pontosphaera kingii* n. sp. Mol borehole, 386.80m depth; nanno-zone IIIa2, top NP11; proximal view; holotype, a. viewed at 25° in clockwise direction, b. & d. viewed at 45° to the polarisation directions; c. almost parallel to the polarisation directions.

Holotype: Pl. 3, fig. 19 (negatives, Lab. voor Paleontologie, R.U. Gent, Belgium).

Locus typicus: Mol borehole (31W-237), Belgium (x= 198.350, y=211.750); 386.80m depth.

Stratum typicum: Ieper Formation, Mons-en-Pévèle Sand Member; nanno-zone IIIa2, top of NP11.

Age: Ypresian.

Paratypes: A few eroded non-figured specimens.

Derivatio nominis: In honour of Dr. C. KING (Watford, England) who contributed much to our knowledge of the Ypresian in the North Sea Basin.

Diagnosis: Small plate-like nannolith, with raised margin supported by 18 to 22 rather slender struts and two somewhat oblique slits in the foci of the ellipse.

Description: This species is characterised by its raised margin, 18 to 22 well-developed struts and by two slits almost in the foci of the ellipse. The slits are somewhat oblique compared to the central axis of the plates and both show, at the end which is pointed to the centre, a small incurvation towards the margin. In cross-polarised light the extinction lines present a V-shaped pattern and are laevogyre when viewed at 45° to the polarisation directions (PL 3, Fig. 19d). Viewed at 90° (PL 3, Fig. 19c) the extinction bands follow the axes of the ellipse, as a broad rather diffuse band along the small axis and a much thinner, sharp band along the long axis.

Dimensions: Length: 9 to 10 μ m (holotype: 10 μ).

Remarks: This species is somewhat similar to *Pontosphaera pectinata* (BRAMLETTE & SULLIVAN, 1961) as far as the general shape and construction of the struts is concerned. However, *P. pectinata* does not have slits, but shows a pair of small elliptical openings at the foci of the ellipse (see BRAMLETTE & SULLIVAN, 1961, p. 142, pl. 3, figs 4 & 5).

Distribution: Only known from nanno-zones IIIa1 and IIIa2 (=topmost part of NP11) of the Ypresian of the Belgian Basin.

Steurbaut, E., 1990. Ypresian Calcareous Nannoplankton Biostratigraphy and Palaeogeography of the Belgian Basin. *Bulletin de la Société Belge de Géologie*, **97(3/4)**: 251-285.