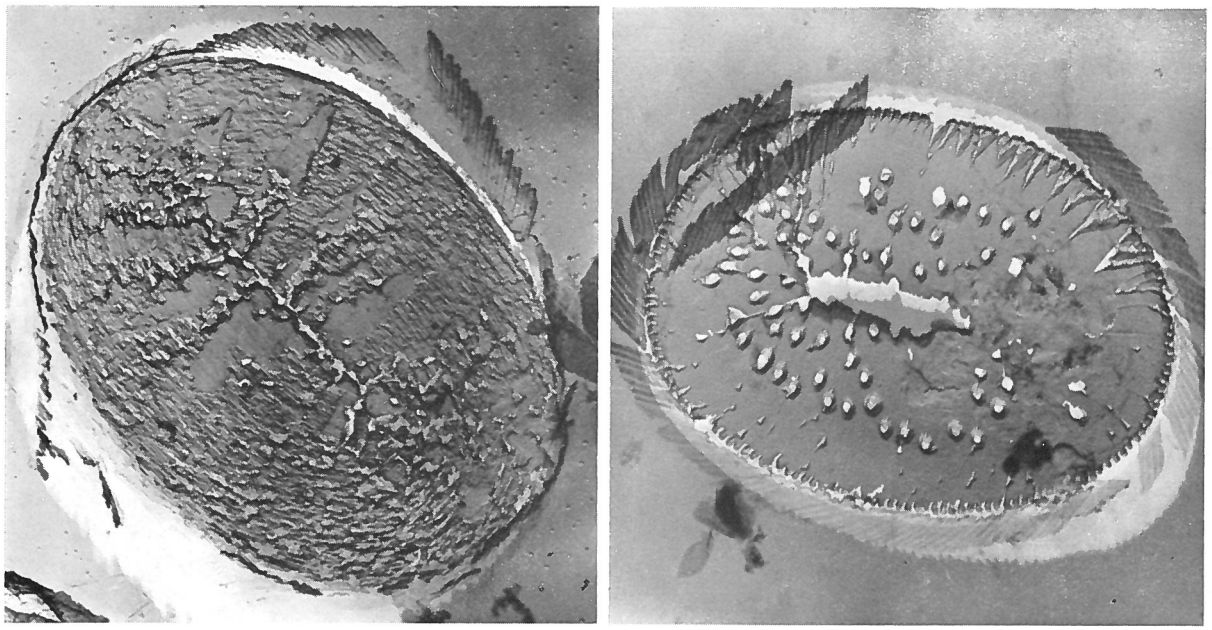
Pontosphaera messinae BARTOLINI, 1970



1 2

Figs. 1, 2 — *Pontosphaera messinae* BARTOLINI, n. sp.; 1) distal view, holotype; 2) proximal view, paratype. x 6000.

Description:

Diagnosis: Cribrilithus per apsida curvatus forma concavus convexus. Plana centralis area terebrata circiter centum foraminis. Margo lamellaris planus atque angustus.
(Elliptical concavo-convex cribrilith. Flat central area pierced by about 100 holes. Flat, narrow lamellar rim).

Description: The surface of the proximal concave side, though smooth, is here and there interrupted by faint suture segments (fig. 2). The flat-sided, tightly adjoining laths which compose the proximal side add up to about 150. The distal side surface shows the same striations parallel to the margin that characterize the *Discolithina japonica* distal side. The pore openings are often masked on this side (fig. 1). The rim elements (one for each central area segment) are strongly clockwise inclined in proximal view. About one hundred 0.2 μ perforations are clustered in the central part of the central area.

Dimensions: Lengths (exclusive of rim) range from 9.4 to 12.8 μ, mean 10.8 μ; widths range from 6.8 to 9.1 μ, mean 7.8 μ. The length/width recorded ratios range from 1.29 to 1.47, mean 1.39. As already remarked about *P. alboranensis*, the dimension range is probably wider than here outlined, since only five specimens have been found and measured in core 68. The rim is about 1.0 μ wide in plan views.

Remarks:

Comparison: *Discolithina iaponica* has a much higher number of very much more closely spaced perforations. In *Pontosphaera discopora* SCHILLER (see also Halldal and Markali, 1955), perforations are scattered over the whole central area, which is strongly convex instead of flat.

Type level:

Recent.

Type locality:

Alboràn Sea (Mediterranean) between the Strait of Gibraltar and the Spanish islet of El Alboràn.

Depository:

Centro Universitario di Microscopia Elettronica, Firenze.
Holotype: C.U.M.E. 918/4; paratype: C.U.M.E. 917/2.

Author:

Bartolini C., 1970, p. 150; pl. 7, figs. 1, 2.

Reference:

Coccoliths from sediments of the western Mediterranean. Micropaleontology, vol. 16, nº 2, pp. 129-154, pls. 1-8.