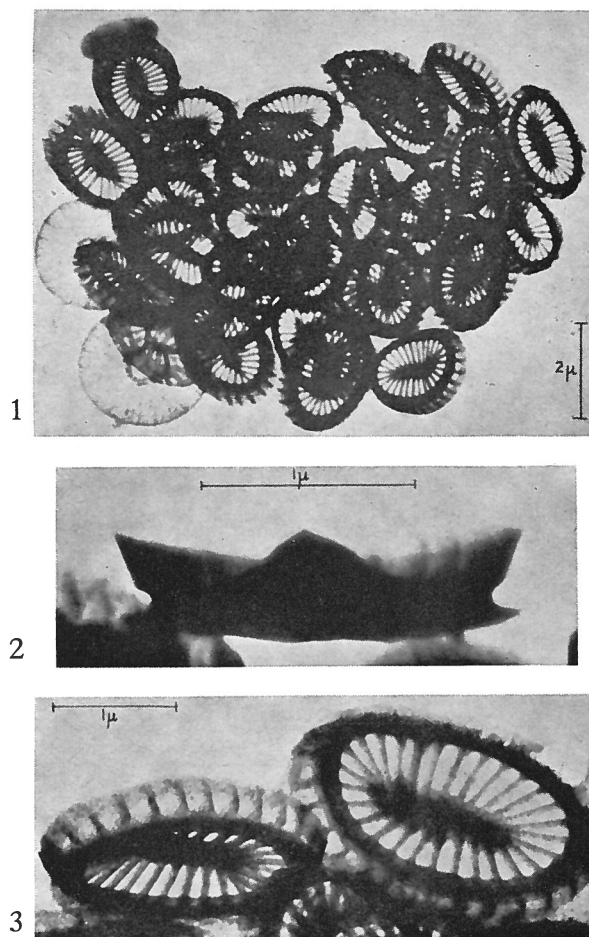


**Pontosphaera variabilis** HALLDAL & MARKALI, 1955



Figs. 1-3 — *Pontosphaera variabilis* n. sp.;  
1) A disintegrated coccolithophorid. Concerning the cyrtoliths to the left, see remarks on p. 13. 2) Side view of a coccolith. 3) Coccoliths in half side view.

**Description:**

Light microscope diagnosis: The cell is 5 to 10  $\mu$  long, very variable in form, but usually irregularly pear-shaped. In the light microscope it has a grayish, opaque appearance.

Electron microscope diagnosis: The coccoliths are 1.8 to 2.5  $\mu$ -long and about 0.5  $\mu$ -high complete cancoliths. The central area consists of 22 to 30 lamellae and a distinct, central keel which, when viewed from the side, protrudes out of the coccolith like a blunt spine. The girdle has a characteristic, deep indentation. The simple cyrtoliths in figs. 1-3 were photographed by chance in the neighbourhood of a *Pontosphaera variabilis* cell. This may be

an indication of dimorphism, but as yet no definite proof has been given to uphold such a theory.

**Remarks:**

Electron micrographs published by Deflandre and Fert (1954, Pl. IV, Fig. 2) possibly represent this species.

**Type level:**

Recent.

**Type locality:**

Weather Ship M, 66° N, 2° E, September 1949.

**Depository:**

Institutt for marin biologi, Oslo - Blindern.

**Author:**

Haldall P. and Markali J., 1955, p. 12, pl. 12.

**Reference:**

Electron microscope studies on Coccolithophorids from the Norwegian Sea, the Gulf Stream and the Mediterranean. Avh. Norske Vidensk.-Akad. Mat. Nat. Kl. n° 1, pp. 1-30, pls. 1-27.