

## *Porsildia* Thomsen & Østergaard (2015)

**Diagnosis:** Coccosphere dimorphic. Circumflagellar coccoliths have a central process formed proximally by numerous densely aggregated elements and distally terminating in two closely aligned elongate elements. Body coccoliths oval. In both coccolith types the vertical wall consists of slightly overlapping elements that vary in size and shape. The central area of the body coccoliths has a low central structure of irregularly piled elements that vary in size and shape; this structure is not connected to the rim.

**Type species:** *Porsildia acerviphora* sp. nov.

**Etymology:** Genus named in honour of Dr. Morten Porsild – a Danish botanist – who founded the University of Copenhagen Arctic Station (Qeqertarsuaq, West Greenland) in 1906.

*Porsildia* gen. nov. bears resemblance to genera of the Papposphaeraceae Jordan and Young 1990, and in particular to *Papposphaera* Tangen 1972 and *Pappomonas* Manton and Oates 1975. Both genera have coccoliths with a characteristic muralium rim, a narrow wall, and a distally protruding structure in a wide variety of shapes on the central area. Central area and process structure are the key features with respect to species identification. The coccosphere may be monomorphic, dimorphic, varimorphic or polymorphic. *Porsildia* body coccoliths on the other hand have a unique and very different structure of the central area.

Thomsen, H. A., & Østergaard, J. B. 2015. Coccolithophorids in polar waters: *Mercedesia* gen. nov., *Ericiolus*, *Quaternariella* and *Porsildia* gen. nov. *Acta Protozoologica*, **54(3)**: 155-169.