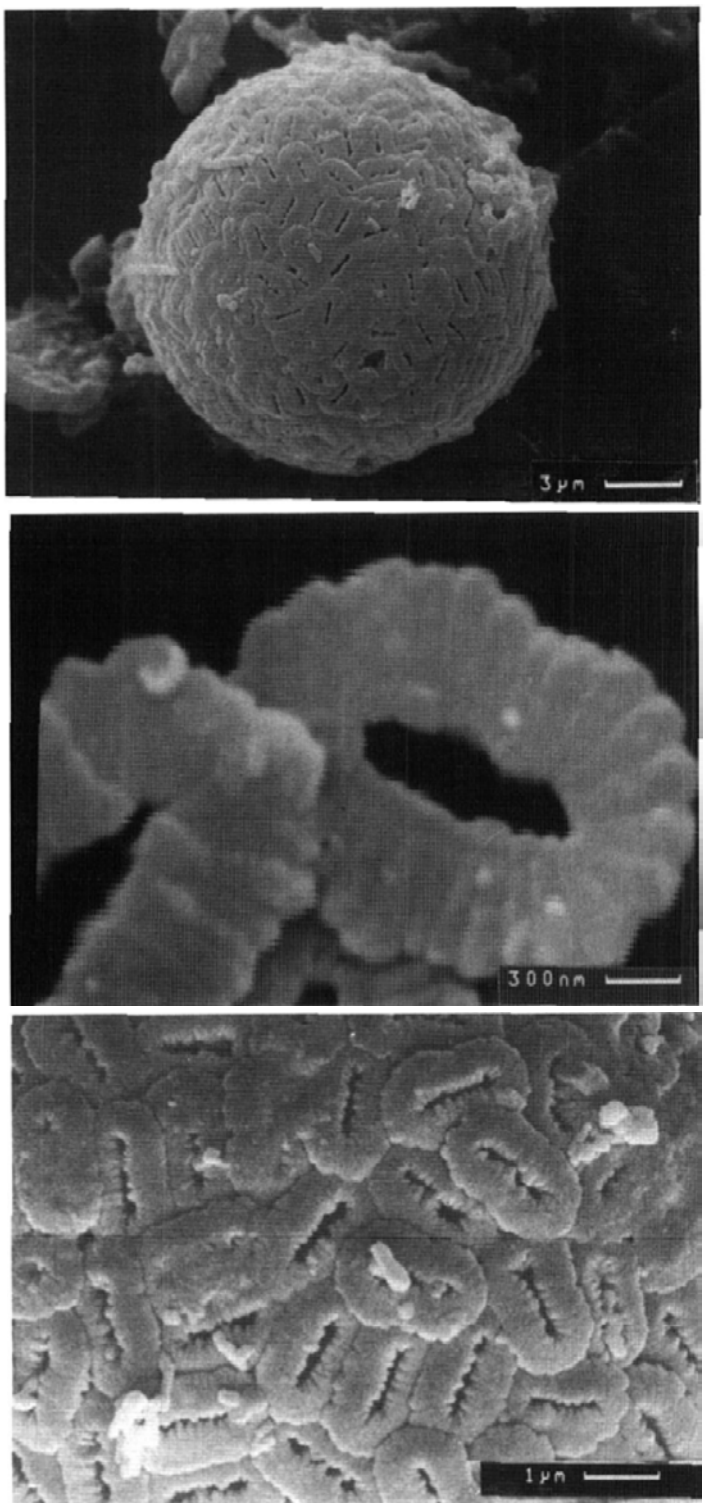
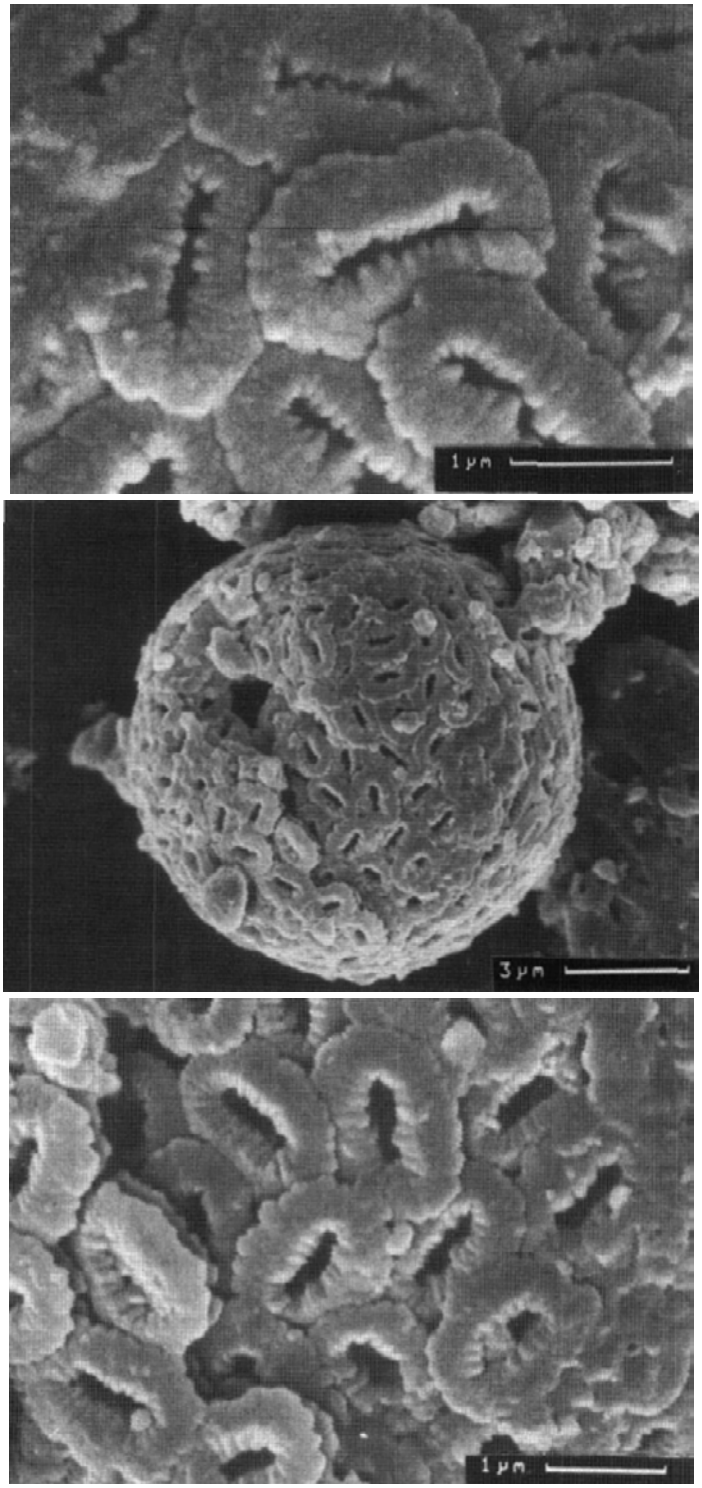
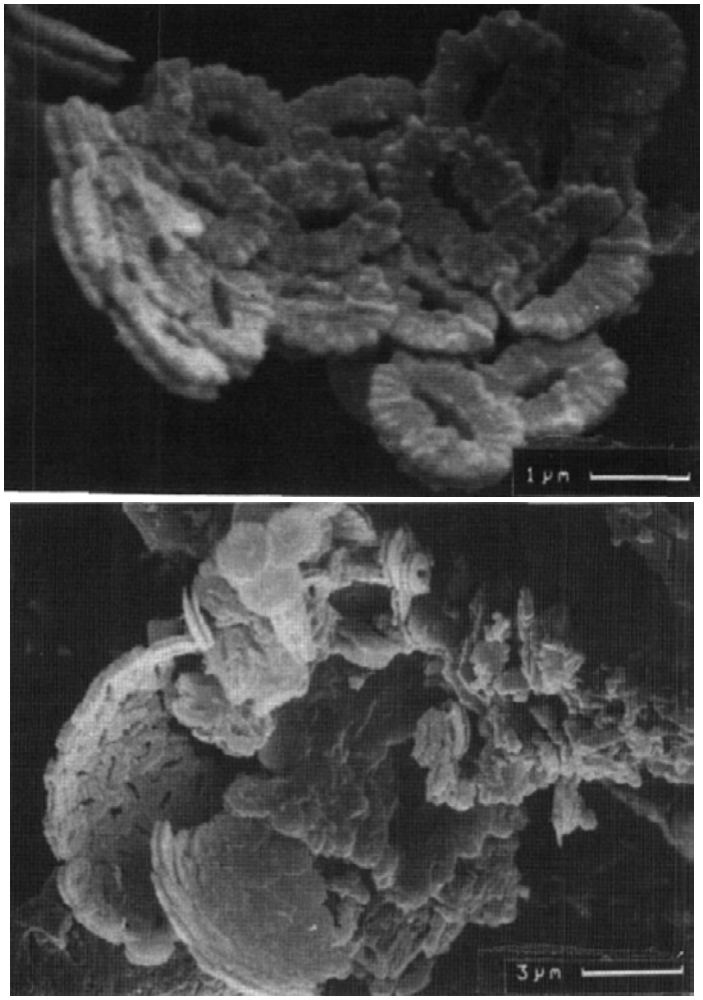
81. Prinsius scissuratus Mai (2001)




1μm
3μm
1μm



Pl. 2, figs 1-8

Fig. 1. *Prinsius scissuratus*, n. sp., holotype.
Fig. 2. *Prinsius scissuratus*, n. sp., paratype.
Fig. 3. *Prinsius scissuratus*, n. sp., holotype, distal view.
Fig. 4. *Prinsius scissuratus*, n. sp., holotype, distal view.
Fig. 5. *Prinsius scissuratus*, n. sp., paratype.
Fig. 6. *Prinsius scissuratus*, n. sp., paratype, distal view.
Fig. 7. *Prinsius scissuratus*, n. sp., paratype, proximal view.
Fig. 8. *Prinsius scissuratus*, n. sp., cracked coccosphere.

Diagnosis: Coccospheres are spherical with a diameter of 1 1µm and about 250 coccoliths on their surfaces. Coccoliths overlap slightly without a geometrical system. Single coccoliths are subelliptical with the longer sides parallel to each other, measuring 1.5 to 2.0µm and contain about 25 rhombohedric elements on their distal and proximal shields. The center is only a small slit with the axis parallel to the sides.

Comparison and discussion: No known fossil coccoliths or coccospheres are similar to this form. The living genus *Alisphaera* Heimdal 1973 seems to be close to *Prinsius scissuratus*, but coccoliths of *Alisphaera* do not have two shields, and the distribution of coccoliths on

the coccosphere is distinctly geometrical. The assignment of *P scissuratus* to the family and genus is therefore provisional.

Material: Holotype: Coccosphere, GII/7, Plate 2, numbers 1, 3, 4, paratype: coccosphere, GII/7, Plate 2, numbers 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, deposited and registered under neg. numbers GII/7, 8-15.

Etymology: from Latin *scissuratus* = provided with a slit.

Occurrence: Lower Paleocene, upper Zone NP1, *Biantholithus sparsus* Zone at Geulhemmerberg near Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Mai, H., 2001. New coccolithophorid taxa from Geulhemmerberg airshaft, Lower Paleocene, The Netherlands. *Micropaleontology,* **47(2):** 144-154.