

202. *Rothia* Varol & Girgis (1994)

Type species: *Chiastozygus striatus* BLACK, 1971.

Diagnosis: An elliptical coccolith consisting of a zeugoid outer wall, a proximal rim, an inner flat wall made up of dextrally imbricated wedge shaped elements and a central cross with a distal process.

Derivation of name: In honour of Prof. Dr. P. H. ROTH, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, USA.

Description: *Rothia* has a zeugoid outer wall. The inner wall is made up of dextrally imbricated wedge shaped elements which appear to be lying flat when seen from the distal side. The sutures between elements are zig-zag in shape. The central area is spanned by a cross which possesses a distal process. The walls diverge outward distally. Under the cross polarised light, the inner wall is birefringent, whereas the central cross is only weakly birefringent. The outer wall and proximal rim are non-birefringent under cross-polarised light. The holotype of *R. striata* (type species of *Rothia*) is a very good SEM micrograph (BLACK 1971: 134, fig. 7). Our description is based on this micrograph and is supported by our own observations and literature survey.

Remarks: *Rothia* is distinguished from *Bownia* in having wedge shaped elements in its inner wall which are dextrally imbricated, whereas the latter has a zeugoid inner wall made of lath like elements. *Rothia* differs from *Tegumentum* by having a zeugoid outer wall, whereas *Tegumentum* has a protolith outer wall. *Helicolithus* differs from *Rothia* in having a protolith inner wall, whereas the latter has dextrally imbricated elements. The Tertiary form *Neochiastozygus* differs from *Rothia* in having an outer wall with sinistrally imbricated elements and a zeugoid inner wall.

Varol, O., & Girgis, M.H., 1994. New taxa and taxonomy of some Jurassic to Cretaceous calcareous nannofossils. *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie, Abhandlungen*, **192(2)**: 221-253.