Type species: *Similiscutum cruciulus* de Kaenel and Bergen, 1993.

**Diagnosis:** “Circular to elliptical Biscutaceae having a proximal shield constructed of elements that have a light proximal extension near the inner rim margin and may form a separate inner proximal cycle. The resulting rim extinction pattern is bicyclic with a bright, narrow inner rim cycle and a broad, faint outer rim cycle. The distal shield is unicyclic and the proximal shield is often visible at the base of the central area. The small central area may be imperforate, open, or spanned by a variety of central structures” (de Kaenel and Bergen, 1993, pp. 872–873). Emended diagnosis: Normal to broadly elliptical placolith coccoliths with R-crystal unit proximal shield and V-crystal-unit distal shield. The distal shield is unicyclic. The small central area may be imperforate, open, or spanned by a variety of central structures.

**Description:** The R-units of the proximal shield may extend into the central area, thus, the rim extinction pattern in LM appears bicyclic (although the distal shield is unicyclic) with a bright, narrow inner ‘collar’ and a broad, faint outer cycle (Fig. 1). This morphology characterises *Similiscutum cruciulus* and *Similiscutum precarium*. In some other *Similiscutum* coccoliths, the elements of the proximal shield may be very slightly (*Similiscutum novum*) or clearly (*Similiscutum finchii*) imbricated (Fig. 1). *Similiscutum novum* and *S. finchii* have a rather pale image in LM, crossed-polars. The small central area of *Similiscutum* coccoliths may be open or spanned by a cross structure.