213. **Solidopons Theodoridis (1984)**

**Etymology:** Combination of the words solidus (= solid, Lat.) and pons (= bridge, Lat).

**Diagnosis:** Placoliths with an elliptical outline, a central opening, a birefringent proximal shield and a non-birefringent distal one. The central opening is spanned by a single, arched bridge. The bridge is highly birefringent and it is optically discontinuous from the main body of the placolith from which it is separated by two distinct sutures. The bridge consists of microcrystals that merge into a single element.

**Differential diagnosis:** Cenozoic placoliths with a bridge (or bridges) transversing their central opening are classified in the genera *Chiasmolithus* Hay, Mohler and Wade, *Cruciplacolithus* Hay and Mohler, *Placozygus* Hoffman and *Gephyrocapsa* Kamptner. The bridges of these genera, however, are distinguished from the bridge of *Solidopons* by being composed of two or several segments that meet along a suture at the centre of the bridge.

**Type species:** *Solidopons petrae* n. sp.