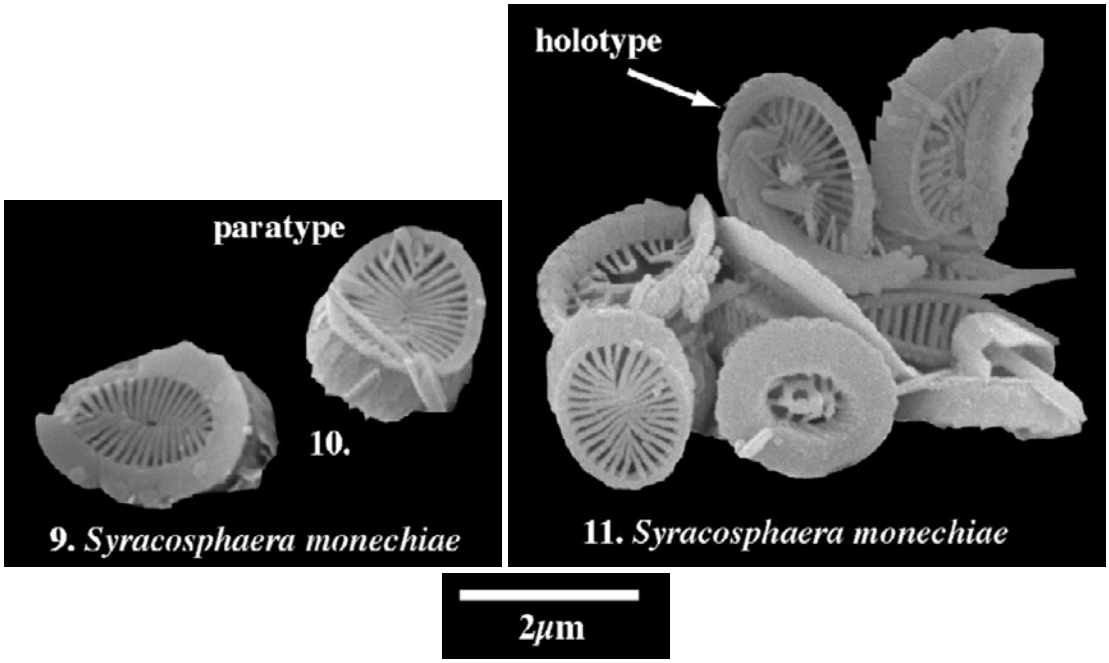
91. Syracosphaera monechiae Dunkley Jones et al. (2009)



Pl. 6, figs 9–11

Derivation of name: Named after Dr Simonetta Monechi (Universit`a di Firenze, Italy), nannopalaeontologist.

Diagnosis: Small (3–4 μm) simple elliptical murolith coccolith with a narrow rim formed of sub-vertical elements, a distinct proximal flange, a wide central-area spanned by a well-developed fragile lath cycle and a low central spine (Pl. 6, fig. 11).

Differentiation: The larger and more robust *S. tanzanensis* has a basal plate formed of fused lath elements whereas in *S. monechiae* the radial laths remain separated up to the base of the low central spine. Differentiated from the smaller *S. raffiae*, which has a lower and thicker rim and an elongated central boss rather than the low spine of *S. monechiae*. *Coronosphaera?* sp. differs from *S. monechiae* in having multiple radial lath elements to each rim element and in having imbricated rim elements.

Dimensions: L 2.6 μm, W 1.7 μm, H 0.6 μm.

Type material: Holotype: Pl. 6, fig. 11. Paratype: Pl. 6, fig. 10.

Type locality: TDP Site 12, Pande, Tanzania.

Type level: upper Eocene, Sample TDP12/26–2, 62 cm (Subzone NP19/20).

Occurrence: Rare throughout these EOB sections; NP19/20–21; TDP Sites 11, 12, 17.

Dunkley Jones, T., Bown, P.R. & Pearson, P.N., 2009. Exceptionally well preserved upper Eocene to lower Oligocene calcareous nannofossils (Prymnesiophyceae) from the Pande Formation (Kilwa Group), Tanzania. *Journal of Systematic Palaeontology,* **7(4):** 359–411.