Tranolithus

**Tranolithus** STOVER, 1966

**Description:**

The coccoliths consist of a single plate with a rim and a central opening partly filled by one or more transverse bars, by projections or by a large central structure. The transverse bars are commonly divided longitudinally. The crystallographic orientation of particles in each half of the transverse bar or in each projection is the same as the orientation of the particles forming the adjacent parts of the rim.

**Remarks:**

Superficially, species of *Tranolithus* resemble those assigned to *Lophodolithus* BRAMLETTE & SULLIVAN, *Zygolithus* KAMPTNER, and *Zygodiscus* BRAMLETTE & SULLIVAN. The new genus differs from *Lophodolithus* in having a symmetric rather than a distinctively asymmetric rim, and from *Zygodiscus* by having the transverse bar(s) divided longitudinally with each half and its adjacent part of the rim composed of identically or very similarly oriented calcite particles. Until a type species has been selected for *Zygolithus*, criteria for distinguishing between species of *Zygolithus* and *Tranolithus* must remain uncertain. Bramlette and Sullivan (1961, p. 149) in their discussion of *Zygolithus* wrote: "The several species which were classed as *Zygolithus* by Kamptner (1956, p. 9) in the late Tertiary of Rotti appear different from ours in having the crossbars attached at the top of the rim and apparently continuous in calcite orientation with the rim." The latter feature is regarded as significant. Consequently, specimens whose central structures have the same crystallographic orientation as the adjacent parts of the rim are assigned to *Tranolithus*; those whose central structures and adjacent part of the rim have different crystallographic orientations are placed in *Zygolithus*.

**Type species:**

*Tranolithus manifestus* STOVER, 1966.

**Author:**


**Reference:**