

92. *Triscutum* Dockerill (1987)

Type species: *Triscutum beaminsterensis* sp. nov.

Derivation of name: From 'tres' = three, 'scutum' = shield (lat.)

Diagnosis: · Elliptical placoliths with three shields in which the distal shield extends vertically to form a high collar, the elements of which diverge distally to form a wide distal margin. The two proximal shields are closely adjacent to one another.

Description: The shields are slightly imbricating to non-imbricating and are composed of 18-30 elements. The three shields decrease in size proximally so that the lateral outline tapers towards the base. An inner wall of non-imbricating elements surrounds the central area to the height of the second shield. The central area is deep but variable and the distance between the distal and middle shields varies from 30%-75% of the total coccolith length.

Remarks: This genus is very similar to *Calyculus* NOEL, 1973, in that the distal shield is extended vertically; however, it differs in having an additional proximal shield. This difference in rim structure is thought to be of sufficient significance to merit a generic separation. Specimens previously allocated to *Proculithus charlotteii* Medd, 1979. and *P. expansus* Medd, 1979 are also thought to belong to this genus as they possess three shields, the distal one of which is expanded, in this way they also differ significantly from the type species of *Proculithus* (*P. fistulatus* PRINS ex MEDD, 1979), which possesses only two shields. NOEL (1965, PI. 6. figs. 7 and 9) figures two broken coccoliths which she interprets as side views of *Diazomatolithus lehmani* NOEL 1965. These side views differ from the holotype in that they have three shields and are therefore interpreted as specimens of *Triscutum*. Only the structure of the rim is considered important in defining this genus. the central areas being used to define the species. Variation observed within the genus includes variation in the height of the rim (distal shield always extended), and variation in the degree of lateral extension of the proximal margins.

Dockerill, H.J., 1986. *Triscutum*, a distinctive new coccolith genus from the Jurassic. *Bull. Centres Rech. Explor.-Prod. Elf-Aquitaine*, **11(1)**: 127-131.