

Zebrashapka COVINGTON & WISE, 1987

Description:

Compact holococcoliths with a suboval base from which the bodies of the coccoliths expand somewhat in the distal direction to form tall hatlike objects. In cross-polarized light the internal structure produces a regular set of birefringent lines subparallel to the base to yield a pattern that resembles the stripes of a zebra.

Remarks:

The second part of the name, adopted directly from the Russian, refers to a type of winter hat. The holococcolith construction is evident by the aggregation of fine cubes. This is the only holococcolith group with these peculiar optical properties yet described and, at present, is a monospecific genus. Other Mesozoic holococcolith genera have been described in Wise and Wind (1977), Wind and Čepék (1979), and Hattner and Wise (1980). Wind and Čepék (1979) described the earliest known Lower Cretaceous forms from the Hauterivian. Forchheimer and Stradner's (1973) suspicion that *Scampanella* is a Cretaceous holococcolith has not been confirmed by subsequent electron microscope studies.

Type species:

Zebrashapka vanhinteri COVINGTON & WISE, 1987.

Author:

Covington J.M. & Wise S.W., 1987, p. 633.

Reference:

Calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy of a Lower Cretaceous deep-sea fan complex: Deep Sea Drilling Project Leg 93 site 603, lower continental rise off Cape Hatteras. Init. Repts. DSDP, vol. 93, pp. 617-660, 23 pls., 5 text-figs.