

# Calcareous nannofossils from the Toolebuc Formation, Eromanga Basin, Australia

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Calcareous nannofossils in the Toolebuc Formation reference section and in the lowermost Allaru Mudstone in BMR Boulia 3 suggest a middle to late Albian age. The evidence includes the presence of the key species *Prediscosphaera columnata* in assemblages overwhelmingly dominated by *Tranolithus orionatus*, the cool-water guide species *Seribiscutum primitivum*, and *Watznaueria barnesae*. Similar evidence is found in a core sample from BMR Tambo 38. Biostratigraphic subdivisions based on coeval foraminifera, dinoflagellates, spores and pollen are discussed. The nannofossil evidence points to deposition at

high palaeolatitudes and/or in a near-surface cool-water regime in an isolated basin with intermittent connection to the open sea. Indications of environmental stresses are thought to be linked mainly with changes in the salinity of the near-surface waters. The nannofossil record depended not only on the initial presence of the nannoflora in the surface waters, but also on the effect on preservation of fluctuating (reducing and oxidising) conditions at the water/sediment interface, characteristic of epicontinental seas in high latitudes. A new calcareous nannofossil species, *Tegumentum toolebucum*, is described.

## Introduction

The oil-shale-bearing Toolebuc Formation (Senior & others, 1975) has been the subject of diverse studies, but calcareous nannofossils in this formation have not been investigated hitherto, even though their presence was noted previously (e.g. Gliksun, 1982). The unit is widespread in northern central Australia and its type section (BMR Boulia 3A) is in the Queensland portion of the Eromanga Basin (Fig. 1). Material studied herein is from BMR Tambo 38 and the reference section (BMR Boulia 3), which is only a few metres from the type section.

The Toolebuc Formation consists of calcareous oil shale and coquinite (Ozmic, 1982). The average thickness of the formation is 20m; the maximum is 35 m, in the Winton area (Ozmic & Saxby, 1983). Its type section is just 10.5 m thick. Ammonites, foraminifera, dinoflagellates, spores and pollen, fish remains, belemnites, pelecypods, and gastropods occur in the formation.

In addition to its apparent economic potential, the Toolebuc Formation is a good stratigraphic marker in the lower Cretaceous sequence of the Eromanga Basin: the formation can be easily identified in the subsurface by its strong gamma-ray anomaly (Senior & others, 1975). The Toolebuc Formation is overlain by the Allaru Mudstone and is underlain by the Wallumbilla Formation, part of the Rolling Downs Group. The age of the Toolebuc Formation has been regarded as middle to late Albian by several investigators (e.g. Haig, 1979).

**Material studied.** Core samples were examined from eight levels within the Toolebuc Formation reference section (BMR Boulia 3) and from four levels in the lower part of the overlying Allaru Mudstone in the same bore hole (Fig. 2). The upper and lower contacts of the Toolebuc Formation in BMR Boulia 3 are placed at the 25-m and 36-m levels, respectively. In addition, two samples (MFN-2436 & 2437) were studied from Core 5 in BMR Tambo 38 to the east. The material was examined by optical and scanning electron microscopy.

## Biostratigraphy

### Foraminiferal and palynological studies

Previous biostratigraphic works, based on assemblages of foraminifera, spores and pollen grains, and dinoflagellates occurring in the Toolebuc Formation and the lower part of the Allaru Mudstone, are discussed below.

In his study of the distribution of foraminiferal taxa within Aptian-Albian marine deposits in much of Queensland, Haig (1979) described the *Hedbergella inferacretacea* assemblage

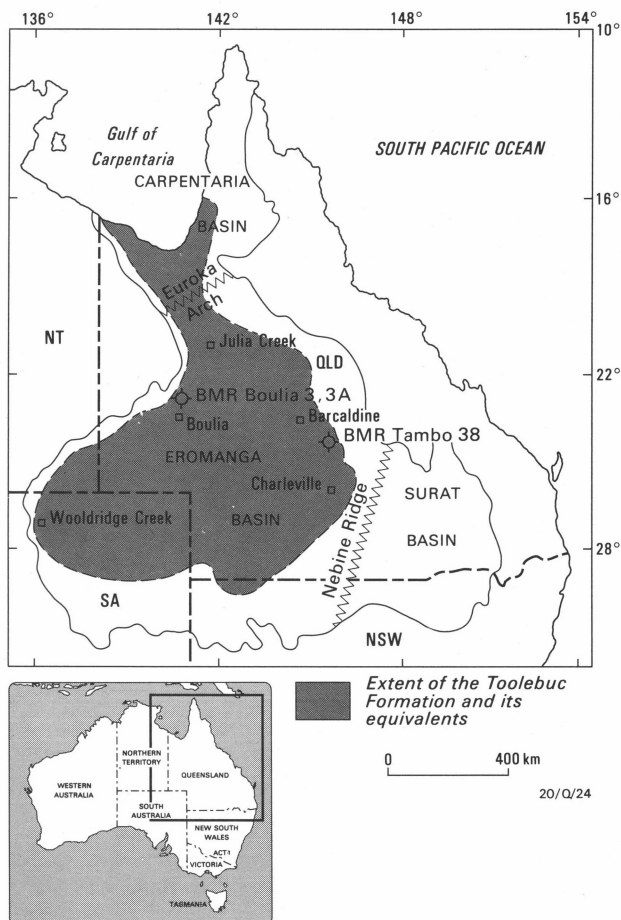


Figure 1. Locality map for BMR Boulia 3 and 3a, and BMR Tambo 38.

zone, based on material from the lowermost Allaru Mudstone and the Toolebuc Formation, as composed of abundant *H. inferacretacea*, common *H. delrioensis* and *H. planispira*, and very rare *H. punctata*. The age of the *H. inferacretacea* zone was inferred to be late middle to early late Albian, because it lies between the *Hedbergella delrioensis* assemblage zone, which includes evidence indicating late Albian (rather than Cenomanian) age, and the *Hedbergella planispira* assemblage zone, which is based on planktic taxa with ranges suggestive of an age no older than Albian (Haig, 1979). Other evidence cited by Haig (1979) for the age of his *H. inferacretacea* zone is the occurrence of an ammonite fauna suggestive of latest middle to early late Albian age (according to Day, 1969) in beds associated with the zone.

Scheibnerova (1980) used three benthic foraminiferal events to correlate Aptian-Albian rock units in Queensland and New South Wales with South Australia. She indicated that the

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Toolebuc Formation in the Boulia area is above her youngest datum, the earliest occurrence of *Lingulogavelinella franki*, which was assigned an early late Albian age. The stratigraphic relationship between the *L. franki* datum and the appearance of *Hedbergella* species is inconsistent according to Scheibnerova (1980), presenting a difficulty in relating the datum to the *Hedbergella* zones of Haig (1979).

Spores and pollen grains referable to the *Phimopollenites pannosus* zone (Dettmann & Playford, 1969) and dinoflagellates belonging to the lower (a) part of *Endoceratium ludbrookiae* zone (subzone a) have been recorded from the Toolebuc Formation (Morgan, 1978). Based on a comparison among the ranges of species occurring in Australia, Europe and Canada, Morgan (1980) suggested that the age of his lower (a) part of *E. ludbrookiae* zone (which he equated with the *P. pannosus* zone) is late Albian.

Sample No MFN	Formation	Levels in metres and (feet)	Nannofossils
2476	Allaru	20.72 (68'0")	Absent
2477		21.76–21.94 (71'5"–72'0")	Absent
2152	Mudstone	22.24–22.55 (73'0"–74'0")	Frequent
2478		22.55–22.85 (74'0"–75'0")	Traces
2153	Toolebuc Formation	25.90–28.90 (85'0"–95'0")	Absent
2154		29.54–29.85 (97'3"–98'2½")	Frequent
2480		30.23–30.48 (99'0½"–100'2")	Traces
2481		31.07–31.17 (101'11½"–102'3½")	Absent
2155		31.30–31.65 (102'9"–103'10")	Frequent
2438		31.80–32.08 (104'4"–105'3")	Frequent
2156		33.29–33.52 (109'3"–110'2")	Common
2157		34.33–34.59 (112'8"–113'6")	Common

20/Q/26

Figure 2. Samples studied from BMR Boulia 3.

### Distribution of calcareous nannofossils

The abundance of calcareous nannofossils varies greatly from one level to another within the Toolebuc Formation and the overlying Allaru Mudstone in BMR Boulia 3. However, some generalisation can be made. Frequent to common nannofossils occur consistently in the lower half of the Toolebuc Formation, with greatest abundance near the base of the formation (Fig. 2). The upper half of the Toolebuc Formation and the lower part of the Allaru Mudstone include several levels devoid of nannofossils or containing traces only of these fossils. The highest sample examined from the Toolebuc Formation (MFN-2153) and samples MFN-2476 & 2477 from the Allaru Mudstone are barren of nannofossils, and only a few poorly preserved specimens of the long-ranging *Watznaueria barnesae* were encountered in samples MFN-2480 (Toolebuc Formation) and MFN-2478 (Allaru Mudstone).

Preservation is generally poor, most assemblages showing dissolution effects and some containing a high percentage of nannofossil debris. Nannofossils in sample MFN-2438 are particularly etched, being represented by only solution-resistant taxa, including common *Watznaueria barnesae*, *Tranolithus exiguus*, *Seribiscutum primitivum*, and rare *Tranolithus orionatus* and *Watznaueria ovata*.

Except for *Watznaueria barnesae*, the taxa in samples MFN-2155 & 2152 are represented by small or 'dwarf' specimens. The nannofossil assemblage in sample MFN-2152 is of particular interest, as it is the only reasonably diversified assemblage recovered from the Allaru Mudstone during the present study.

Common and moderately well-preserved nannofossils were found in one sample (MFN-2437) from Core 5 of BMR Tambo 38; the other sample (MFN-2436) examined from the same core is devoid of calcareous nannofossils.

### Nannofossil assemblages

Assemblages recovered from samples MFN-2156 & 2167 are similar and thought to represent the Toolebuc Formation assemblage in BMR Boulia 3. This assemblage is dominated by a few species, namely *Seribiscutum primitivum*, *Tranolithus orionatus*, *Watznaueria barnesae* and, to a lesser degree, *Tranolithus exiguus* and *Zygodiscus elegans*. Other species, including *Biscutum constans*, *Repagulum parvidentatum*, *Bidiscus rotatorius*, *Cretarhabdus conicus*, *C. surirellus*, *Parhabdololithus angustus*, *P. asper*, *Cyclagelosphaera* sp., *Prediscosphaera spinosa*, *Chiastozygus crucifer* (Noel) n. comb., *Biscutum gartneri*, *Hemipodorhabdus gorkae*, *Vekshinella crux*, *Corollithion rhombicum*, *C. geometricum*, *Bidiscus monocavus*, and *Zygodiscus compactus*, are frequent, whereas *Prediscosphaera columnata*, *Watznaueria britannica*, *W. ovata*, and *Manivitella pemmatoides* are rare. *Cyclagelosphaera margereli*, *Loxolithus armilla*, *Grantarhabdus bukryi*, *Tubodiscus* sp., *Broinsonia* sp. and *Gartnerago* sp. are extremely rare.

The Allaru Mudstone assemblage in BMR Boulia 3 (sample MFN-2152) is composed of abundant *Watznaueria barnesae*, *Seribiscutum primitivum*, *Tranolithus orionatus*/T. *exiguus* and common *Scapholithus fossilis*, *Parhabdololithus asper*, *P. angustus*, *Prediscosphaera columnata*, *Biscutum constans*, *Bidiscus rotatorius*, *Tegumentum toolebucum* (new species), *Corollithion geometricum*, *Zygodiscus elegans*, and *Z. compactus*. *Angulofenestrallithus* sp., *Cyclagelosphaera margereli*, *Grantarhabdus bukryi* and *Biscutum gartneri* are frequent to rare. Forms referable to the genera *Cretarhabdus*, *Vekshinella*, *Chiastozygus*, *Zygodiscus* and *Lapideacassis* are present in a few numbers.

The assemblage identified from BMR Tambo 38 (sample MFN-2437) is dominated by *Watznaueria barnesae*, *Tranolithus exiguus*/T. *orionatus* and *Seribiscutum primitivum*. Other species, including *Watznaueria ovata*, *W. britannica*, *Prediscosphaera columnata*, *P. spinosa*, *Cretarhabdus surirellus*, *C. conicus*, *Biscutum constans*, *B. gartneri*, *Zygodiscus elegans*, *Vekshinella crux*, *Chiastozygus crucifer*, *Cyclagelosphaera margereli*, *Parhabdololithus splendens*, *P. angustus*, *Hemipodorhabdus gorkae*, *Bidiscus rotatorius* and *Gartnerago* sp. occur frequently.

### Nannofossil biostratigraphy and age

The nannofossil biostratigraphy of the Albian, as based on studies by Thierstein (1971, 1973, 1974), Wise & Wind (1976), and Manivit (1979), is summarised in Figure 3. Each zone is based on the occurrence of its name species. These zones are universal in the sense that they have been identified from land-based sections in widely separated areas, including the Albian type area, and from deep-sea sections in all major oceans. Biostratigraphic units based on parts of the range of *Hayesites albiensis* (Manivit, 1971; Manivit & others, 1977) and those that use *Axipodorhabdus albianus* (Manivit, 1971; Hill, 1976; Roth, 1978) are not included in Figure 3. Taxonomic revision by Manivit & others (1977) necessitated renaming the



uppermost part of the zone may be late Albian (Hailwood & others, 1979). The European type middle Albian 'Argiles tegulines' (northeastern France) contains a rich assemblage assignable to the *P. columnata* zone (Sissingh, 1977, 1978). The earliest appearance level of *Eiffellithus turriseiffeli* in the type upper Albian 'Marnes de Brienne' (northeastern France) has not been precisely documented yet. Nannofossil distributions in the Gault section at Copt Point, Great Britain, and in the Col de Palluel section, southeastern France (Thierstein, 1973), support the conclusion that the *P. columnata* zone extends into the upper Albian.

The nannofossils recovered from the reference section of the Toolebuc Formation and the lowermost Allaru Mudstone in BMR Bouliia 3 suggest, therefore, a late middle to early late Albian age; a similar age range is also suggested by the nannofossils from Core 5 of BMR Tambo 38. Those in the lowermost Allaru Mudstone include perhaps more evidence to suggest the younger age limit.

### Correlation

The present study provides evidence to directly relate local biostratigraphic units based on dinoflagellates, spores, and pollen grains to nannofossil zones applicable to marine Albian sediments from many other localities. McMinn & Burger have identified the lower (a) part of the *Endoceratum ludbrookiae* dinoflagellate zone as encompassing the Toolebuc Formation and extending into the Allaru Mudstone in BMR Bouliia 3, and assigned spores and pollen grains in the same material to the *Phimopollenites pannosus* zone (D. Burger, personal communication). This indicates that the lower (a) part of the *E. ludbrookiae* dinoflagellate zone and the palynological *P. pannosus* zone can be equated with the later part of the nannofossil *Prediscosphaera columnata* zone (*Biscutum constans* subzone).

A similar (and perhaps more refined) conclusion can be drawn from material previously studied from the Naturaliste Plateau, DSDP Site 258. Biostratigraphic analyses of the middle-upper Albian section there were carried out by Thierstein (1974), who reported on the nannofossils, and by Morgan (1978), who studied the dinoflagellates. Nannofossils assignable to the *P. columnata* zone were identified in cores 23–20, and those belonging to the *Eiffellithus turriseiffeli* zone were found in cores 19–15. Dinoflagellates assignable to the lower (a) part of the *E. ludbrookiae* zone were identified in cores 21–18, which encompass the nannofossil *E. columnata*/*E. turriseiffeli* zonal boundary. The lower (a) part of the *E. ludbrookiae* zone at Site 258 equates with the later part of the *P. columnata* zone and the early part of the *E. turriseiffeli* zone.

### Palaeoenvironment

Deposition of the Rolling Downs Group (including the Toolebuc Formation and Allaru Mudstone) took place in a shallow epicontinental sea in a cool humid region (e.g. Exon & Senior, 1976), much like those prevailing in the Baltic sea in the Holocene (Seibold & others, 1971). The straits connecting the sea to the open ocean were of limited extent (e.g. Ozimic, in press), and water exchange with the open ocean was intermittent – as attested to by variable nannofossil content. As a result, density layering may have developed, consisting of a brackish surface-layer whose freshwater was provided by rivers, and a saline bottom-layer fed by saltwater inflow through the straits. The shallowness of the sea (foraminiferal evidence indicates a water-depth range of 100–200 m, according to Haig, 1979) and its narrow entrances meant that drastic changes in environment could occur with minor changes in sea level or tectonic movement at the straits.

In such an environment, marine planktic organisms (including calcareous nannoplankton) decline in abundance away from the straits, and their extent varies as surface-water properties fluctuate. Density layering in the water column means that the bottom waters are oxygen-poor, the pH is low, and reducing conditions may exist at the water/sediment interface, leading to dissolution of deposited calcareous planktic remains. Evidently, these reducing conditions disappeared and reappeared, resulting in the preservation of interbedded calcareous and non-calcareous beds, typical of the Rolling Downs Group (Exon & Senior, 1976).

The variable abundance and preservation of the calcareous nannofossils in the Toolebuc Formation and the Allaru Mudstone fit the general environmental model. The poor preservation of the nannofossils at most levels and their absence at others suggest that not only was the temporal distribution of the nannoflora in the surface waters very variable, but that the degree of dissolution of sedimented nannoplankton remains was also variable. At times, no nannoflora existed in the surface waters, and even when it did it was simply not preserved because of carbonate dissolution in bottom sediments.

The occurrence of nannofossil assemblages composed almost entirely of small ('dwarf') specimens in the Toolebuc Formation (sample MFN-2155) and in the lowermost Allaru Mudstone (sample MFN-2152) suggests environmental stresses or, the less likely, mechanical sorting. The environmental stresses are presumably caused by variation in the salinity of the surface waters, among other factors.

The abundant occurrence of *Seribiscutum primitivum* in the Toolebuc Formation and Allaru Mudstone suggests deposition at high palaeolatitudes and/or in a cool near-surface regime. The absence of *Parhabdololithus infinitus* (Worsley) Thierstein and *Rucinolithus irregularis* Thierstein, considered as Tethyan or low-latitude taxa (Thierstein, 1974), supports this conclusion. The predominance of *Hedbergella* within the planktic foraminiferal assemblages of the Toolebuc Formation was taken to suggest cold-water conditions by Haig (1979).

### Systematic palaeontology

Taxa discussed below are arranged alphabetically by generic epithets. Negatives of all illustrated specimens are deposited in the Commonwealth Palaeontological Collection (CPC) in the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Canberra.

#### Genus *Angulofenestrallithus* Bukry, 1969

##### *Angulofenestrallithus* sp.

##### Figure 6H

**Remarks.** This form has a relatively narrow 2-cycle distal rim. Elements of the outer cycle imbricate sinistrally with sutures inclined counterclockwise, and turning to become subradial towards the outer margin. The inner cycle of the distal rim is constructed of blocky to square-outlined elements that slope towards the center of the nannolith. A network of polygonal perforations forms the large central area.

*Angulofenestrallithus* sp. differs from *A. snyderi* Bukry, 1969 by the counterclockwise inclination of the outer cycle of the distal rim and by the apparent absence of a stem.

Specimens of *Angulofenestrallithus* sp. are extremely rare in the material studied. Only the distal view of this form is available.

Genus *Bidiscus* Bukry, 1969

**Remarks.** The Cretaceous genus *Bidiscus* Bukry, 1969 has been regarded as a junior synonym of the Jurassic genus *Discorhabdus* Noel, 1965 by some investigators. However, these genera differ: *Bidiscus* lacks the stem characteristic to *Discorhabdus*. Black (1972) mentioned the possibility of *Bidiscus* being a descendant of *Discorhabdus*, because of the great resemblance between their isolated basal shields.

*Bidiscus monocavus* Bukry, 1969

Figure 4B

*Bidiscus monocavus* Bukry, 1969, p. 27, pl. 7, figs. 3–4.

**Remarks.** Element counts of specimens encountered indicate less elements than in the type material. The distal shield has 14 to 17 elements. The central opening is surrounded by a narrow cycle of small elements.

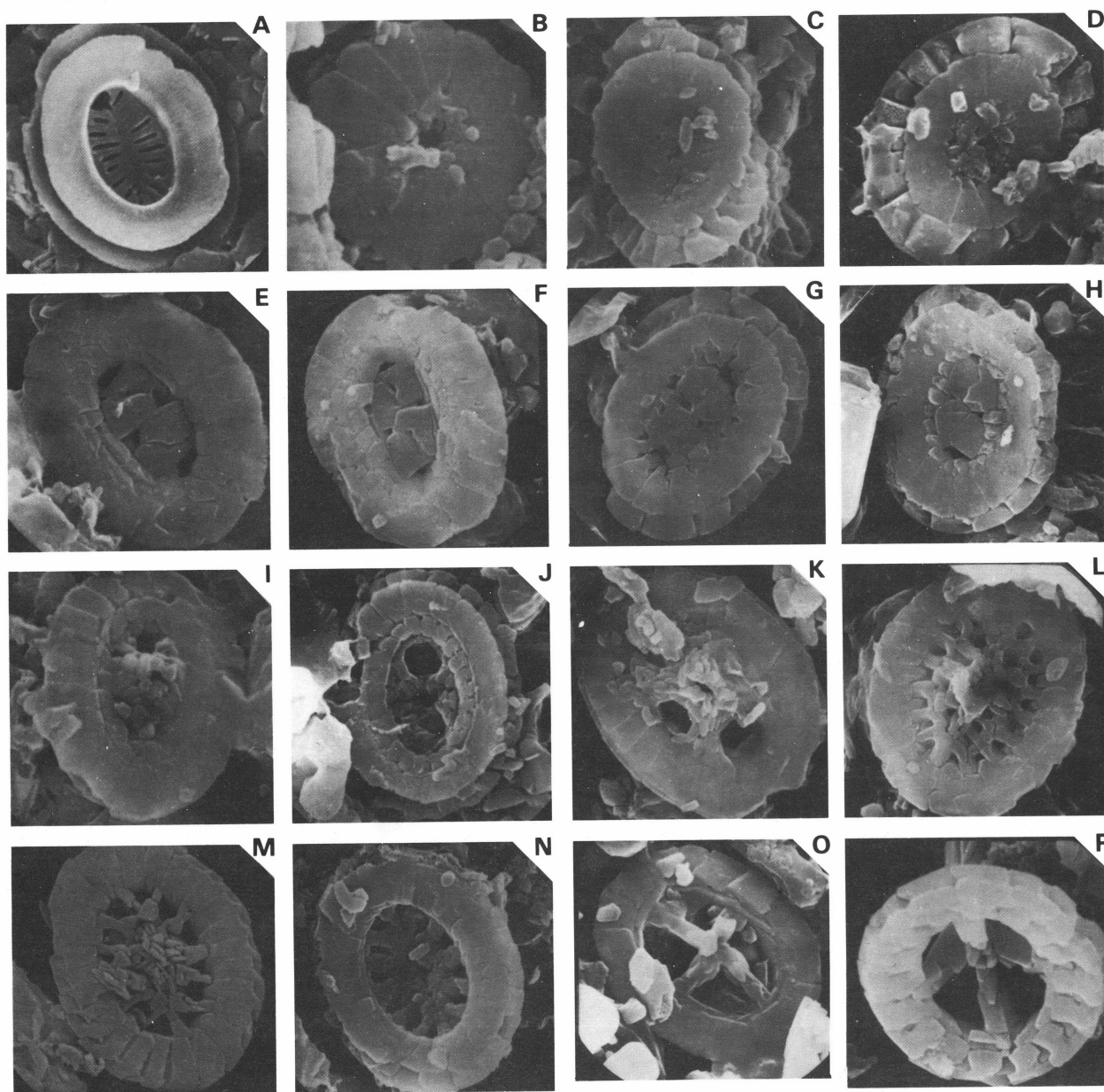
*Bidiscus rotatorius* Bukry, 1969

*Bidiscus rotatorius* Bukry, 1969, p. 27, pl. 7, figs. 5–9.

**Remarks.** The higher element counts of this form makes its identification very easy, even in poorly preserved material.

Genus *Biscutum* Black in Black & Barnes, 1959*Biscutum constans* (Gorka) Black, 1967

Figure 4D



**Figure 4.** SEM micrographs of selected calcareous nannofossil taxa; Toolebuc Formation sample MFN-2157 unless stated otherwise.

A, *Repagulum parvidentatum* (Deflandre & Fert) from Allaru Mudstone sample MFN-2152, CPC25078 (proximal view) x9705; B, *Bidiscus monocavus* Bukry, CPC25079 (distal view) x11300; C, *Biscutum gartneri* Black, CPC25080 (proximal view) x9130; D, *Biscutum constans* (Gorka), CPC25081 (proximal view) x8220; E–H, *Seribiscutum primitivum* (Thierstein): E, from Toolebuc Formation sample MFN-2438, CPC25082 (distal view) x8260; F, CPC25083 (distal view) x7270; G, from Toolebuc Formation sample MFN-2438, CPC25084 (proximal view) x7290; H, CPC25085 (proximal view) x 6460; I–J, *Hemipodorhabdus gorkae* (Reinhardt): I, CPC25086 (distal view) x9430; J, CPC25087 (proximal view) x7990; K, *Grantarhabdus bukryi* Black, CPC25088 (distal view) x6710; L, *Cretarhabdus conicus* Bramlette & Martini, CPC25089 (distal view) x7110; M–N, *Cretarhabdus surirellus* (Deflandre & Fert): M, CPC25090 (distal view) x7040; N, CPC25091 (proximal view) x7500; O, *Prediscosphaera spinosa* (Bramlette & Martini), CPC25092 (distal view) x7150; P, *Prediscosphaera columnata* (Stover), CPC25093 (oblique proximal view) x9000.

- Discolithus constans* Gorka, 1957, p. 279, pl. 4, fig. 7.  
*Biscutum testudinarium* Black in Black & Barnes, 1959, p. 325, pl. 10, fig. 1.  
*Biscutum castrorum* Black in Black & Barnes, 1959, p. 326, pl. 10, fig. 2.  
*Cribrosphaerella tectifforma* Reinhardt, 1964, p. 758, pl. 2, fig. 4.  
*Coccolithites polycingulatus* Reinhardt, 1965, p. 39, pl. 3, fig. 2.  
*Cribrosphaera testiforma* (Reinhardt) Reinhardt, 1966, p. 30, pl. 5, fig. 3; pl. 12, figs. 3–4; text-fig. 12.  
*Coccolithus oregus* Stover, 1966, p. 39, pl. 1, figs. 8–9; pl. 8, fig. 4.  
*Biscutum constans* (Gorka) Black, 1967, p. 139.

***Biscutum gartneri* Black, 1971**  
 Figure 4C

*Biscutum gartneri* Black, 1971, p. 393, pl. 30, fig. 2.

**Remarks.** As mentioned by Black (1972), this form has a granular central area occupying about 1/2 the diameter of the proximal shield.

**Genus *Chiastozygus* Gartner, 1968**  
***Chiastozygus crucifer* (Noel) n. comb.**  
 Figure 5N

*Zycolithus crucifer* Noel, 1970, p. 30, pl. 3, figs. 11–15; pl. 4, figs. 1–6; text-fig. 4.

**Genus *Corollithion* Stradner, 1961**  
***Corollithion geometricum* (Gorka) Manivit, 1971**  
 Figure 6I

- Discolithus geometricus* Gorka, 1957, p. 259, pl. 4, fig. 8.  
*Zycolithus geometricus* (Gorka) Stradner in Stradner, Adamiker & Maresch, 1968, p. 40, pl. 36; pl. 37, figs. 1–4.  
*Zycolithus sexiradiatus* Pienaar, 1969, p. 116, pl. 4, fig. 9; pl. 10, fig. 9.  
*Corollithion ellipticum* Bukry, 1969, p. 40, pl. 18, figs. 10–11.  
*Neococcolithes geometricus* (Gorka) Hoffmann, 1970, p. 182, pl. 21, figs. 5–6; pl. 3, fig. 6; pl. 5, fig. 5.  
*Ellipsoschistus hexerratus* Worsley, 1971, p. 130, pl. 1, figs. 24–25, 226.  
*Actinozygus geometricus* (Gorka) Rood, Hay & Barnard, 1971, p. 254, pl. 1, fig. 6.  
*Corollithion geometricum* (Gorka) Manivit, 1971, p. 109, pl. 5, figs. 4–5.

**Remarks.** The narrow rim is composed of a proximal cycle of small rod-like elements, and a distal cycle of rectangular elements that are arranged radially to form a low wall. Specimens encountered have an open central pore.

***Corollithion rhombicum* (Stradner & Adamiker) Bukry, 1969**  
 Figure 6J–K

- Zycolithus rhombicus* Stradner & Adamiker, 1966, p. 339, pl. 2, fig. 1; text-figs. 5–7.  
*Dictyolithus emendatus* Lyulyeva, 1967, p. 96, pl. 4, fig. 41.  
*Corollithion rhombicum* (Stradner & Adamiker) Bukry, 1969, p. 41, pl. 19, figs. 2–4.  
*Stradnerlithus rhombicus* (Stradner & Adamiker) Noel, 1972, p. 106, pl. 3, fig. 4; text-fig. 3c.  
*Rhambolithion rhombicum* (Stradner & Adamiker) Black, 1973, p. 97, pl. 30, figs. 2–4.

**Genus *Cretarhabdus* Bramlette & Martini, 1964**  
***Cretarhabdus conicus* Bramlette & Martini, 1964**  
 Figure 4L

- Cretarhabdus conicus* Bramlette & Martini, 1964, p. 299, pl. 3, figs. 5–8.  
*Cretarhabdella lateralis* Black, 1971, p. 400, pl. 31, fig. 5.  
*Cretarhabdus barremianus* Black, 1971, p. 402, pl. 31, fig. 3.  
*Cretarhabdus primus* Black, 1971, p. 402, pl. 31, fig. 2.

**Remarks.** Prominent axial cross and more than one cycle of pores in the central area characterise this species.

***Cretarhabdus surirellus* (Deflandre & Fert) Reinhardt, 1970**  
 Figure 4M–N

- Discolithus surirella* Deflandre & Fert, 1954, p. 144, text-figs. 30–31.  
*Discolithus ingens* Gorka, 1957, p. 256, pl. 3, fig. 3.  
*Tremalithus romani* Gorka, 1957, p. 246 & 271, pl. 2, fig. 5.  
*Coccolithus actinosus* Stover, 1966, p. 138, pl. 1, figs. 15–16; pl. 8, fig. 7.  
 non *Polypodorhabdus actinosus* (Stover) Perch-Nielsen, 1968, p. 50, pl. 10, fig. 1–6.  
 non *Watznaueria actinosa* (Stover) Bukry, 1969, p. 31, pl. 9, fig. 12.  
*Cretarhabdus crenulatus hansmanni* Bukry, 1969, p. 35, pl. 14, figs. 7–9.  
*Cretarhabdus surirellus* (Deflandre & Fert) Reinhardt, 1970, p. 50, pl. 1, figs. 6–8; pl. 2, figs. 1–6; text-fig. 22.  
*Cretarhabdus actinosus* (Stover) Forchheimer, 1972, p. 49, pl. 19, fig. 4.  
*Cretarhabdus cantianus* Black, 1973, p. 51, pl. 18, figs. 2–13.  
*Cretarhabdus leporarii* Black, 1973, p. 52, pl. 18, figs. 1–4.

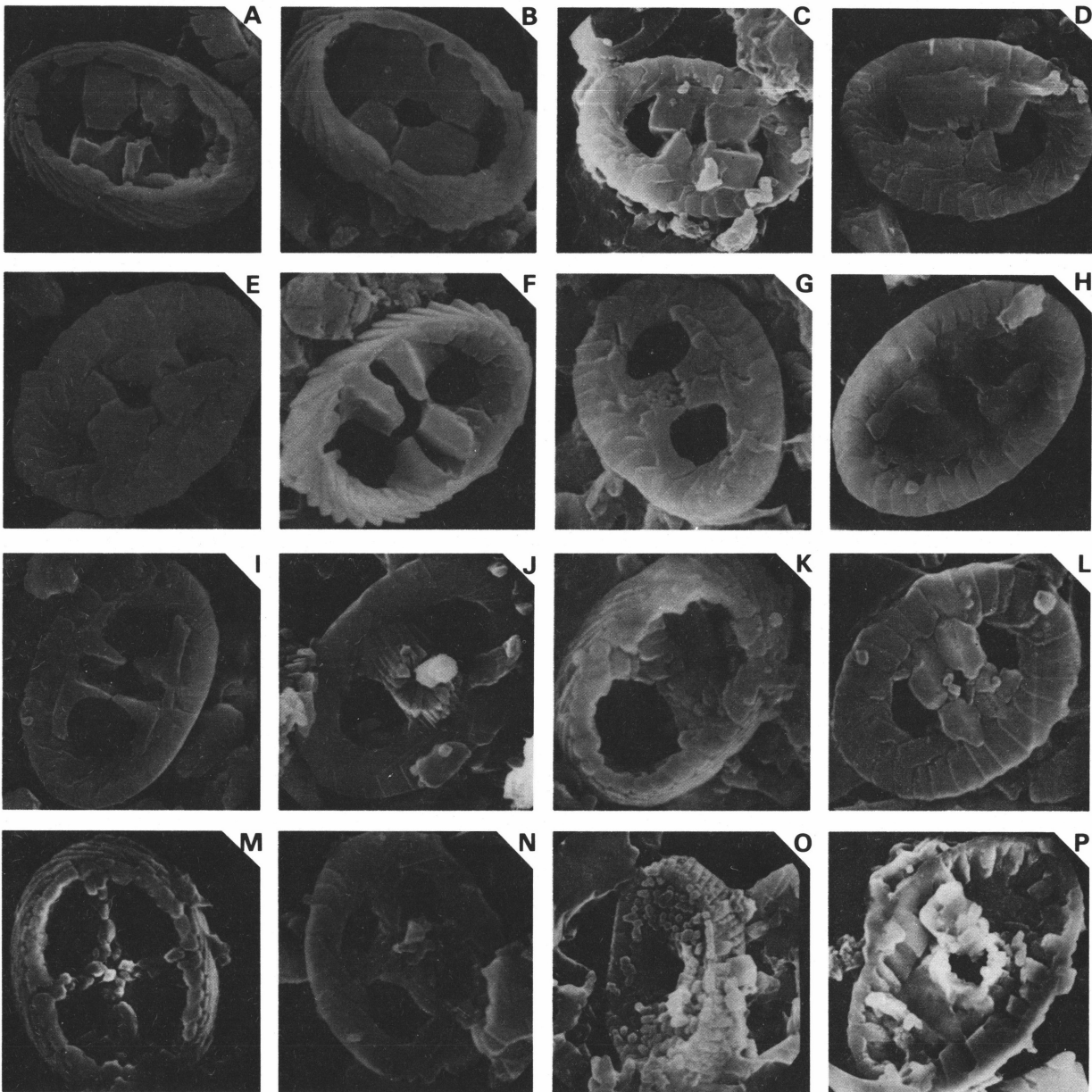
**Remarks.** This species has been included in *Cretarhabdus crenulatus* Bramlette & Martini by many investigators. The number of struts or diagonal bars in the central area of *C. surirellus* is more than 8, which is the number in *C. crenulatus*.

**Genus *Cyclagelosphaera* Noel, 1965**  
***Cyclagelosphaera margereli* Noel, 1965**  
 Figure 6A–B

- Cyclagelosphaera margereli* Noel, 1965, p. 130, pl. 17, figs. 1–2; pl. 20, figs. 2–4; text-figs. 44–46.  
*Coccolithus* sp. Black, 1965, p. 132, fig. 7.  
*Tergestiella ?margereli* (Noel) Shumenko, 1969, p. 39, pl. 2, fig. 8.  
*Tergestiella ?reinhardtii* (Perch-Nielsen) Reinhardt, 1971, p. 29, pl. 1, fig. 6; text-fig. 24.  
*Cyclagelosphaera casarubrensis* Black, 1973, p. 76, pl. 25, figs. 1–3.  
*Cyclagelosphaera puncta* Black, 1973, p. 76, pl. 25, fig. 13.  
*Cyclagelosphaera shenleyensis* Black, 1973, p. 78, pl. 25, fig. 10; text-fig. 39.

**Genus *Gartnerago* Bukry, 1969**  
***Gartnerago* sp.**  
 Figure 6L

**Remarks.** Specimens referable to the genus *Gartnerago* Bukry, 1969 are extremely rare in the material studied. Poor preservation hampered specific identification.



**Figure 5. SEM micrographs of selected calcareous nannofossil taxa; Toolebuc Formation sample MFN-2157 unless stated otherwise.**

A–E, *Tranolithus orionatus* (Reinhardt): A, CPC25094 (proximal view) x6720; B, CPC25095 (proximal view) x8000; C, CPC25096 (distal view) x5290; D, CPC25097 (distal view) x5680; E, CPC25098 (distal view) x6630; F, transitional form between *Tranolithus orionatus* (Reinhardt) and *T. exiguus* Stover, CPC25099 (proximal view) x7330; G–I, *Tranolithus exiguus* Stover: G, from Allaru Mudstone sample MFN-2152, CPC25100 (distal view) x8020; H, from Toolebuc Formation sample MFN-2438, CPC25101 (distal view, slightly corroded) x6150; I, from Allaru Mudstone sample MFN-2152, CPC25102 (distal view, more corroded) x6760; J–K, *Zygodiscus elegans* Gartner: J, CPC25103 (distal view) x6850; K, CPC25104 (proximal view) x9670; L, *Zygodiscus compactus* Bukry, CPC25105 (distal view) x9470; M, *Vekshinella crux* (Deflandre & Fert), CPC25106 (proximal view) x9600; N, *Chiastozygus crucifer* (Noel) n. comb., CPC25107 (distal view) x9490; O, *Parhabdololithus angustus* (Stradner), CPC25108 (oblique proximal view) x7040; P, *Parhabdololithus asper* (Stradner), CPC25109 (distal view) x8460.

**Genus *Grantarhabdus* Black, 1972**

***Grantarhabdus bukryi* Black, 1972**

Figure 4K

*Grantarhabdus bukryi* Black, 1972, p. 43, pl. 11, figs. 1–4.

**Genus *Hemipodorhabdus* Black, 1971**

***Hemipodorhabdus gorkae* (Reinhardt) Grun in Grun & Allemann, 1975**

Figure 4I–J

*Podorhabdus gorkae* Reinhardt, 1969, p. 933, pl. 1, figs. 1–2.

*Hemipodorhabdus latiforatus* Black, 1971, p. 404, pl. 31, fig. 6.

*Hemipodorhabdus biforatus* Black, 1972 (partim), p. 37, pl. 10, fig. 7 (non figs. 6, 8–10).

*Hemipodorhabdus gorkae* (Reinhardt) Grun in Grun & Allemann, 1975, p. 171.

**Genus *Loxolithus* Noel, 1965**

***Loxolithus armilla* (Black) Noel, 1965**

*Cyclolithus armilla* Black in Black & Barnes, 1959, p. 327, pl. 12, fig. 2.

*Loxolithus armilla* (Black) Noel, 1965, p. 67, text-fig. 3.

Genus *Manivitella* Thierstein, 1971  
*Manivitella pemmatoidea* (Deflandre in Manivit)  
 Thierstein, 1971

*Cricolithus pemmatoideus* Deflandre in Manivit, 1965, p. 192, pl. 2, fig. 8.

*Manivitella pemmatoidea* (Deflandre in Manivit) Thierstein, 1971, p. 480, pl. 5, figs. 1–3.

Genus *Parhabdolithus* Deflandre, 1952  
*Parhabdolithus angustus* (Stradner) Stradner  
 in Stradner, Adamiker & Maresch, 1968  
 Figure 5O

*Rhabdolithus angustus* Stradner, 1963, p. 12, pl. 5, fig. 6.

*Parhabdolithus elongatus* Stover, 1966, p. 144, pl. 6, figs. 16–19; pl. 9, fig. 18.

*Ahmuelerella angusta* (Stradner) Reinhardt, 1966, p. 25, pl. 22, figs. 9–12.

*Rhabdolithina angusta* (Stradner) Reinhardt, 1967, p. 168, pl. 7, figs. 4–5.

*Parhabdolithus angustus* (Stradner) Stradner in Stradner, Adamiker & Maresch, 1968, p. 32, pl. 20, figs. 1–5.

*Rhabdolithina extans* Hoffmann, 1970, p. 187, pl. 3, fig. 5.

*Rhagodiscus angustus* (Stradner) Reinhardt, 1971, p. 23, pl. 2, figs. 1, 2; text-fig. 10.

*Parhabdolithus asper* (Stradner) Manivit, 1971  
 Figure 5P

*Discolithus asper* Stradner, 1963, p. 11, pl. 2, figs. 4–5

*Discolithus vagus* Stover, 1966, p. 144, pl. 3, figs. 10–11; pl. 8, fig. 20.

*Rhagodiscus asper* (Stradner) Reinhardt, 1967, p. 161.

*Parhabdolithus asper* (Stradner) Manivit, 1971, p. 87, pl. 23, figs. 4–7.

*Parhabdolithus splendens* (Deflandre) Noel, 1969

*Rhabdolithus splendens* Deflandre, 1953, p. 1785, figs. 4–6.

*Cretarhabdus splendens* (Deflandre) Bramlette & Martini, 1964, p. 300, pl. 3, figs. 13–16.

*Rhabdolithina splendens* (Deflandre) Reinhardt, 1967, p. 167.

*Actinozygus splendens* (Deflandre) Gartner, 1968 (partim), p. 25, pl. 5, figs. 15–16; pl. 7, figs. 1–2; pl. 11, fig. 15; (non pl. 10, fig. 1).

*Parhabdolithus splendens* (Deflandre) Noel, 1969, p. 476, pl. 1, figs. 1–4, 7; text-figs. 1–2.

Genus *Prediscosphaera* Vekshina, 1959  
*Prediscosphaera columnata* (Stover) Manivit, 1971  
 Figure 4P

*Deflandrius columnatus* Stover, 1966, p. 141, pl. 6, figs. 6–10; pl. 9, fig. 16.

*Deflandrius cantabriegensis* Black, 1967, p. 140, text-fig. 1.

*Prediscosphaera columnata* (Stover) Bukry & Bramlette, 1969, p. 372, pl. 2, fig. E, (invalid ICBN Art. 33, par. 4).

*Prediscosphaera columnata* (Stover) Manivit, 1971, p. 100, pl. 21, figs. 13–15.

**Remarks.** Hill (1967) indicated that it is difficult to differentiate between *Prediscosphaera columnata* and *P. cretacea* (Arkhangelskiy) Gartner, 1968 in plan view using optical microscopy, and used the structure of the central spine to differentiate between them. However, the basal disc of *P. columnata* is consistently smaller and more rounded than that of *P. cretacea*. Perch-Nielsen & Prins (in Perch-Nielsen, 1979) indicated the occurrence of two forms of *P. columnata*, differing in size and vertical range.

*Prediscosphaera spinosa* (Bramlette & Martini) Gartner, 1968  
 Figure 4O

*Deflandrius spinosus* Bramlette & Martini, 1964, p. 302, pl. 2, figs. 17–20.

*Eiffellithus cretaceus cretaceus* (Arkhangelskiy) Reinhardt, 1965, p. 35, pl. 2, fig. 4; text-fig. 3.

*Deflandrius cretaceus intercisus* (Deflandre) Reinhardt, 1966 (partim), p. 35, text-fig. 20b; (non pl. 22, fig. 2; pl. 19, fig. 3; text-fig. 20a).

*Prediscosphaera spinosa* (Bramlette & Martini) Gartner, 1968, p. 20, pl. 2, figs. 15–16; pl. 3, figs. 9–10; pl. 5, figs. 7–9; pl. 6, fig. 16; pl. 11, fig. 17.

Genus *Repagulum* Forchheimer, 1972  
*Repagulum parvidentatum* (Deflandre & Fert)  
 Forchheimer, 1972  
 Figure 4A

*Discolithus parvidentatus* Deflandre & Fert, 1954, p. 23, text-figs. 28–29.

*Tremalithus burwellensis* Black in Black & Barnes, 1959, p. 324, pl. 8.

*Coccolithus parvidentatus* (Deflandre & Fert) Reinhardt, 1966, p. 20, pl. 20, figs. 1–2.

*Dictyococcites burwellensis* (Black) Black, 1967, p. 142.

*Watznaueria ?parvidentata* (Deflandre & Fert) Bukry, 1969, p. 33, pl. 12, figs. 5–8.

*Reticulofenestra ?parvidentata* (Deflandre & Fert) Noel, 1970, p. 94, fig. 22, pl. 36, figs. 8–14.

*Tremalithus parvidentatus* (Deflandre & Fert) Reinhardt, 1971, p. 31, figs. 29–30.

*Repagulum parvidentatum* (Deflandre & Fert) Forchheimer, 1972, p. 38, pl. 12, figs. 1–7.

**Remarks.** This small coccolith is easily identifiable with SEM by the very large number of narrow elements forming its distal and proximal shields.

Genus *Scapholithus* Deflandre & Fert, 1954  
*Scapholithus fossilis* Deflandre & Fert, 1954

*Scapholithus fossilis* Deflandre & Fert, 1954, p. 51, pl. 8, figs. 12, 16–17.

Genus *Seribiscutum* Filewicz, Wind & Wise in Wise & Wind, 1976

*Seribiscutum primitivum* (Thierstein) Filewicz, Wind & Wise in Wise & Wind, 1976  
 Figure 4E–H

*Tremalithus* cf. *cretaceus* (Deflandre) Forchheimer, 1968, p. 36, pl. 3, fig. 6; text-figs. 2 (10), 14.

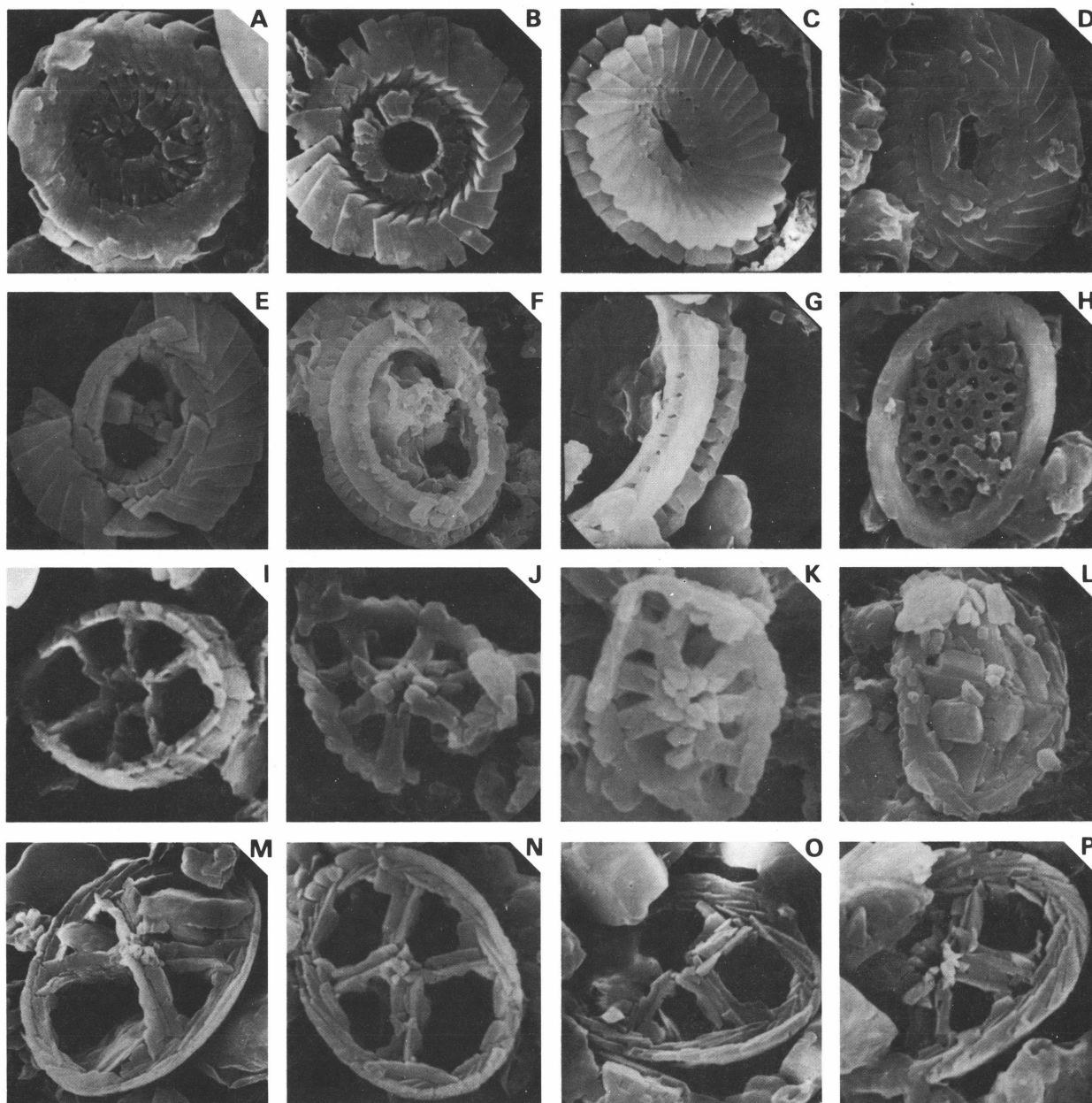
*Cribrosphaerella primitiva* Thierstein, 1974, p. 637, pl. 1, figs. 1–3.

*Seribiscutum primitivum* (Thierstein) Filewicz, Wind & Wise in Wise & Wind, 1976, p. 311, pl. 66, figs. 4–6; pl. 67, figs. 1–4.

Genus *Tegumentum* Thierstein in Roth & Thierstein, 1972

*Tegumentum toalebucum* Shafik, n. sp.  
 Figure 6M–P

**Diagnosis.** A species of *Tegumentum* with a narrow rim (thin wall) surrounding a large open central area that is spanned by a central structure varying from H-shaped with offset bars to X-shaped.



**Figure 6.** SEM micrographs of selected calcareous nannofossil taxa; Toolebuc Formation sample MFN-2157 unless stated otherwise.

A–B, *Cyclagelosphaera margereli* Noel: A, from Toolebuc Formation sample MFN-2155, CPC25110 (proximal view) x8770; B, CPC25111 (distal view) x8100; C–D, *Watznaueria barnesae* (Black): C, CPC25112 (proximal view) x6500; D, CPC25113 (distal view) x6190; E, *Watznaueria britannica* (Stradner), CPC25114 (distal view) x7500; F–G, *Tubodiscus* sp.: F, CPC25115 (oblique distal view) x2800; G, CPC25116 (oblique view) x5810; H, *Angulofenestrallithus* sp. from Allaru Mudstone sample MFN-2152, CPC25117 (distal view) x8880; I, *Corollithion geometricum* (Gorka) from Allaru Mudstone sample MFN-2152, CPC25118 (oblique proximal view) x13740; J–K, *Corollithion rhombicum* (Stradner & Adamiker): J, CPC25119 (distal view) x11190; K, CPC25120 (distal view) x11870; L, *Gartnerago* sp., CPC25121 (distal view) x6340; M–P, *Tegumentum toolebucum* Shafik n. sp. from Allaru Mudstone sample MFN-2152: M, CPC25122 (proximal view) x6690; N, CPC25123 holotype (proximal view) x10330; O, CPC25124 (proximal view) x9850; P, CPC25125 (proximal view) x10000.

**Description.** The elliptical narrow rim is composed of 2 cycles: the inner (corresponding to the wall in the original description of the type species of *Tegumentum*) is formed of dextrally imbricate elements that are separated by clockwise inclined sutures as can be seen in distal view, the outer cycle is constructed of vertically extending tabular elements that slightly imbricate. The large central area is spanned by a central structure that varies in shape. Typically, the central structure is H-shaped with bars being slightly offset, but forms with X-shaped crossbars were also noted. The distal side of the central structure is composed of plates arranged into two zones flanking a median strip composed usually of lath-like elements.

**Remarks.** This species differs from *Tegumentum stradneri* Thierstein, 1972 by its thin wall and its larger central area.

**Holotype.** CPC 25123.

**Paratypes.** CPC 25124, CPC 25125, and CPC 25122.

**Type section.** BMR Boulia 3, the lowermost part of the Allaru Mudstone.

**Known vertical range.** Middle–late Albian.

Genus *Tranolithus* Stover, 1966

*Tranolithus exiguus* Stover, 1966

Figure 5G–I

*Tranolithus exiguus* Stover, 1966, p. 146, pl. 4, figs. 19–21; pl. 9, figs. 3–4.

*Tranolithus salillum* (Noel) Crux, 1981 (partim), p. 638, fig. 2 (7,?8,?10,?12; non 10).

**Remarks.** The original description of this species is based on specimens with partially preserved central structure. In well preserved specimens, the centre of the coccolith is filled with small crystallites (Fig. 5G). The bases of the four components forming the central structure extend parallel to the major axis of the ellipse along the inner margin of the rim. Thierstein (1973) noted the occurrence of intermediate forms between *Tranolithus exiguus* and *T. orionatus* (Reinhardt), and Hill (1976) pointed out the possibility of *T. exiguus* and *T. orionatus* being end members of a single species.

*Tranolithus orionatus* (Reinhardt) Perch-Nielsen, 1968  
Figure 5A–E

*Discolithus orionatus* Reinhardt, 1966, p. 42, pl. 23, figs. 22, 31–33.

*Tranolithus phacelosus* Stover, 1966, p. 146, pl. 4, figs. 23–25; pl. 9, fig. 6.

*Tranolithus orionatus* (Stover) Perch-Nielsen, 1968, p. 35, pl. 4, figs. 15–19; text-fig. 9.

*Zygolithus phacelosus* (Stover) Manivit, 1968, p. 280, pl. 1, fig. 12.

*Tranolithus orionatus* (Stover) Perch-Nielsen, 1968, p. 35, pl. 4, figs. 15–19; text-fig. 9.

*Zygodiscus phacelosus* (Stover) Bukry, 1969, p. 61, pl. 35, fig. 12.

**Remarks.** A few specimens have, on their proximal side, relics of the proximal grid described by Crux (1981) in his emendment of the diagnosis of the genus *Tranolithus* Stover. Identification of *T. orionatus* is easy because of the characteristic 4 large blocky elements that fill most of the central area. However, partial dissolution of these central blocks may result in forms that are identifiable as transitional between this species and *Tranolithus exiguus* Stover (e.g. Fig. 5F). Verbeek (1977) indicated that the shape of the elements forming the central structure depends on the amount of secondary calcite, and included *T. exiguus*, *T. gabalus* Stover and *T. manifestus* Stover among the synonyms of *T. orionatus*.

Genus *Tubodiscus* Thierstein, 1973  
*Tubodiscus* sp.  
Figure 6F–G

?*Tubodiscus* sp. cf. *T. veranae* Thierstein – Wind & Wise in Wise & Wind, 1976, p. 307, pl. 67, figs. 5–6.

**Remarks.** The broadly elliptical narrow shield is constructed of 55–60 strongly dextrally imbricate elements separated by sutures that have a clockwise inclination changing into the reverse direction near the outer margin and the central tube. Elements of both shields extend in an interlocking fashion to form the central tube. This tube projects only a short distance above the smaller shield.

Forms described by Wind & Wise (*in* Wise & Wind, 1976) from the Albian of the Falkland Plateau (DSDP holes 327A & 330) compare well with the present form. However, the number of elements per shield in the Australian form is greater.

Genus *Vekshinella* Loeblich & Tappan, 1963  
*Vekshinella crux* (Deflandre & Fert) Risatti, 1973  
Figure 5M

*Discolithus crux* Deflandre & Fert, 1954, p. 143, pl. 14, fig. 4; text-fig. 55.

*Zygolithus crux* (Deflandre & Fert) Bramlette & Sullivan, 1961, p. 149, pl. 6, figs. 8–10.

*Staurolithus crux* (Deflandre & Fert) Caratini, 1963, p. 25.

*Vekshinella stradneri* Rood, Hay & Barnard, 1971, p. 249, pl. 1, fig. 2.

*Vekshinella crux* (Deflandre & Fert) Risatti, 1973, p. 19, pl. 7, figs. 24–25.

Genus *Watznaueria* Reinhardt, 1964  
*Watznaueria barnesae* (Black) Perch-Nielsen, 1968  
Figure 6C–D

*Tremalithus barnesae* Black in Black & Barnes, 1959, p. 324, pl. 9, figs. 1–2.

*Colvillea barnesae* (Black) Black, 1964, p. 311.

*Coccolithus barnesae* (Black) Bramlette & Martini, 1964, p. 298, pl. 1, figs. 13–14.

*Watznaueria angustoralis* Reinhardt, 1964, p. 753, pl. 2, fig. 2; text-fig. 4.

*Tergestiella barnesae* (Black) Reinhardt, 1964, p. 753.

*Ellipsagelosphaera frequens* Noel, 1965 (partim), p. 119, pl. 11, figs. 8–9; pl. 19, fig. 5; ?pl. 20, figs. 1, 6–8; text-fig. 35, ? 36; (non pl. 11, figs. 7, 10; pl. 12, figs. 1–10; pl. 13, figs. 1–10; pl. 16, figs. 1–11).

*Maslovella barnesae* (Black) Tappan & Loeblich, 1966, p. 43.

*Coccolithus paenepelagicus* Stover, 1966 (partim), p. 139, pl. 1, fig. 10; pl. 3, fig. 22B; pl. 8, figs. 5; (non pl. 1, fig. 11).

*Watznaueria barnesae* (Black) Perch-Nielsen, 1968, p. 69, pl. 22, figs. 1–7; pl. 23, figs. 1, 4, 5, 16; text-fig. 32.

*Watznaueria britannica* (Stradner) Reinhardt, 1964  
Figure 6E

*Coccolithus britannica* Stradner, 1963, p. 10, pl. 1, fig. 7.

*Watznaueria britannica* (Stradner) Reinhardt, 1964, p. 753, pl. 2, fig. 3; text-fig. 5.

*Ellipsagelosphaera lucasi* Noel, 1965, p. 126, pl. 11, figs. 1–6; text-figs. 41–42.

*Watznaueria ovata* Bukry, 1969

*Ellipsagelosphaera frequens* Noel, 1965 (partim), p. 119, pl. 12, fig. 8; pl. 19, ?figs. 1, 4; (non pl. 11, figs. 7–10; pl. 12, figs. 1–7, 9–10; pl. 13, figs. 1–10; pl. 14, figs. 1–11; pl. 19, figs. 2, 3, 5; pl. 20, figs. 1, 6–8; text-figs. 37–40).

*Watznaueria ovata* Bukry, 1969, p. 33, pl. 11, figs. 11–12.

*Ellipsagelosphaera ovata* (Bukry) Black, 1973, p. 71, pl. 26, figs. 10–12.

Genus *Zygodiscus* Bramlette & Sullivan, 1961  
*Zygodiscus compactus* Bukry, 1969  
Figure 5L

*Zygodiscus compactus* Bukry, 1969, p. 59, pl. 34, figs. 1–2.

*Zygodiscus elegans* Gartner, 1968  
Figure 5J–K

*Zygodiscus elegans* Gartner, 1968, p. 32, pl. 10, figs. 3–6; pl. 12, figs. 3–4; pl. 27, fig. 1.

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