

Deltocyathus

Fig. 31

Author. MILNE EDWARDS & HAIME, 1848e.

Type species. *Turbinolia italica* MICHELOTTI, 1838; MT.

Type(s) of the TS. Italy (Piemonte, Alessandria) Tortona; Upper Miocene.

Description. (Based on topotypical material from the type locality). Solitary discoid coral. Calicular outline circular, diameter 8-10mm (ca.). Septa compact. Microstructure of small-sized trabeculae, septa with a median dark line. Septa in cross section externally thin, then becoming thicker, and thinner again toward the centre. Septal maximum thickness 300µm. Symmetry of septa radial and regularly hexameral. Cycles of septa regular. Five cycles (s=48). Septal cycles (generations) differ in length and thickness. First septal cycle (generation) reaches 40% of the (shorter) calicular diameter, later cycles (generations) are shorter. Septa of younger cycles (generations) often and regularly connected to septa of preceeding ones. Septal upper margin smooth, lateral face with thorns, inner margin smooth. Pali present, on two septal cycles. Some septa may be attached to the columella. Costae present, with granulae on their surface. Synapticulae absent. Columella poorly defined, probably lamellar. Endotheca absent. Wall present, compact, septothecal. Coenosteum absent.

Relationships. Relationship to *Metadeltocyathus* and *Paradeltocyathus* are unclear. These genera may be synonymous.

Position. Deltocyathidae in KITAHARA et al. (2012a).

Refs. CHEVALIER (1962b: 328).

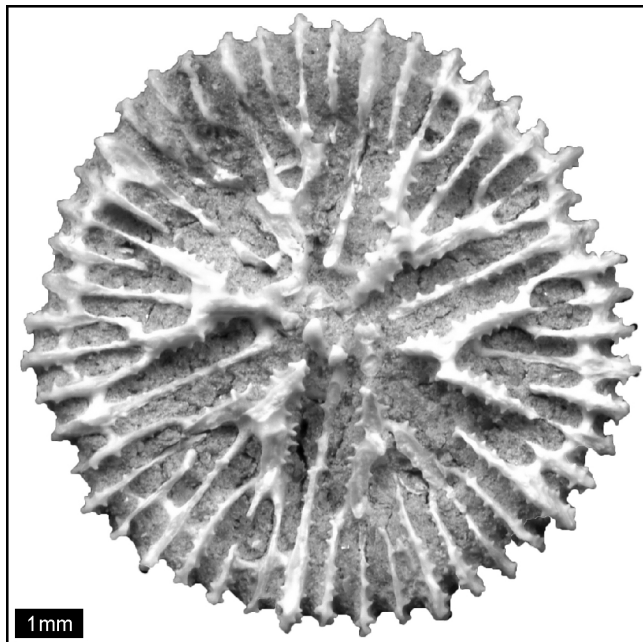


Fig. 31a. *Turbinolia italica* MICHELOTTI, 1838. Italy (Piemonte, Alessandria) Tortona; Upper Miocene. GPSL FLX 741. Oral coral surface.

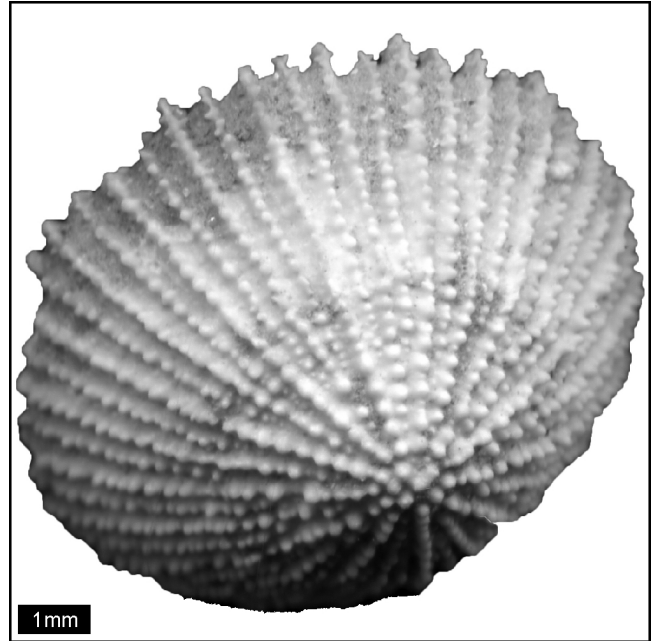


Fig. 31b. Same specimen as in figure 31a. Aboral coral surface.

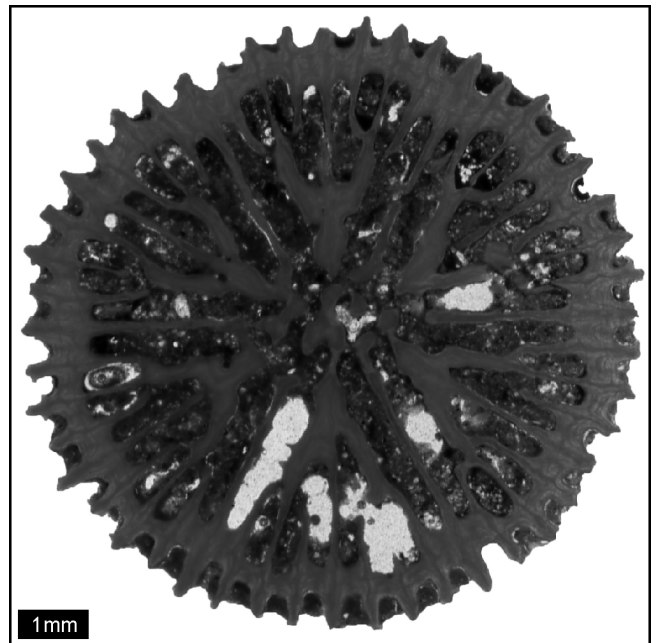


Fig. 31c. Same specimen as in figure 31a. Transverse thin section.

Species list. *D. (Levipalifer) arctous* KUZMICHEVA, 1987b; *D. complanatus* SQUIRES, 1958b; *Trochocyathus cupuliformis* ALLOITEAU, 1951b; *D. urschelauiensis* SÖHLE, 1897; *D. weberi* DAMPEL & KOTOVICH, 1949.

Remarks on species. Occurrence of this genus in the Cretaceous is very questionable: in *Deltocyathus (Levipalifer) arctous* KUZMICHEVA, 1987 the septa are free and costae are almost not visible. *Deltocyathus complanatus* SQUIRES, 1958 is questionable because the type is very poorly preserved, moreover, it has a discoidal form. The type material of *Deltocyathus urschelauiensis* SÖHLE, 1897 is not available. *Deltocyathus weberi* DAMPEL & KOTOVICH, 1949 was never illustrated.

Range. FO: The Barremian *Deltocyathus weberi* DAMPEL, 1949 has never been depicted. The occurrence in the Cenomanian is also uncertain since the type material of *D. urschelauiensis* SÖHLE, 1897 has been lost.