



On the genus *Alisphaera* (Alisphaeraceae, Haptophyta) including a new species *A. memoria* sp. nov. in the South China Sea

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With 12 figures and 1 table

Abstract: Genus *Alisphaera* including 9 species and was not often reported in different waters. During our investigation of coccolithophorid assemblages in the South China Sea, two species of this genus were found, *Alisphaera gaudii* and *A. memoria* sp. nov. The new species is morphologically related to the type species, *A. ordinata* and to *A. capulata* because the two parts of the distal flange overlap. *A. memoria* is primarily characterised by a large and very well developed vertical part of the distal flange, which is about 3 times wider than the horizontal part, and one of the elements of the vertical part of the distal flange usually has a spine.

Keywords: Coccolithophorids; Viet Nam; *Alisphaera gaudii*; *Alisphaera memoria* sp. nov.

Introduction

The genus *Alisphaera* was erected by Heimdal (1973) to accommodate distinguished morphological features of a species, *Acanthoica ordinata* Kamptner 1941 from genus *Acanthoica*. The work was based on an electron microscopical study on coccolith morphology of this species, which was not possible at Kamptner's time. The new genus was described as monothecate and monomorphic with elliptical coccoliths. The coccoliths have narrow elliptical proximal disc connecting with short tube. The distal flange widely splits into two asymmetric parts, one is narrow and horizontally expanded, another is broader and may have spine protrusion and/or oblique to vertical expanded.

The genus has been overviewed in Jordan & Chamberlain (1993) with 4 species and latter included a check-list of extant haptophytes of the world (Jordan & Green 1994). In 2001, Kleijne et al. described 5 new species, raised the species number of the genus to 9. In this