

Corals from the Maastrichtian Ocozocoautla Formation (Chiapas, Mexico) – a closer look

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ABSTRACT

The small Maastrichtian coral fauna of Ocozocoautla (Chiapas, Mexico) is being taxonomically reviewed. In contrast to an older study, the material is examined by preparing thin sections and carrying out systematic measurements to ensure that any comparisons of the material with existing species are of statistical significance. Twelve species in ten genera from the suborders Archeocaeniina, Fungiina, Meandrinina, Microsolenina and Poritina are described. The genera Multicolumnastraea and Favioseris are discussed in detail. One genus and its species are described as new: Filkornia is a colonial coral genus with very large calices that belongs to the Late Cretaceous family Felixaraeidae. All species are colonial corals from a shallow marine environment and many of them are known from localities outside the study area, mostly from the Maastrichtian of Jamaica.

Key words: scleractinian corals, taxonomy, Maastrichtian, Chiapas, Mexico.

RESUMEN

La taxonomía de la pequeña fauna de corales del Maastrichtiano de Ocozocoautla (Chiapas, Mexico) está en proceso de revisión. En contraste con un estudio previo, el material se examinó en láminas delgadas y se tomaron mediciones sistemáticas de las dimensiones de los corales para asegurar que cualquier comparación con otras especies tenga significado estadístico. Se describen 12 especies en 10 géneros de los subórdenes Archeocaeniina, Fungiina, Meandrinina, Microsolenina y Poritina. Los géneros Multicolumnastraea y Favioseris se discuten con detalle. Un género y sus especies se describen por primera vez: Filkornia es un coral colonial con cálices muy grandes que pertenece a la familia Felixaraeidae del Cretácico Tardío. Todas las especies son corales coloniales de un ambiente marino somero. Casi todas las especies se conocen de otras localidades fuera del área del estudio, principalmente del Maastrichtiano de Jamaica.

Palabras claves: corales, taxonomía, Maastrichtiano, Chiapas, México.

INTRODUCTION

The whole Maastrichtian period was marked by a steady fall in sea level (Hardenbol *et al.*, 1998) resulting in a decline in shallow marine faunas or in their erosion during

the ensuing period of transgression. While Santonian and Campanian coral faunas can be found all over the globe (Santonian of Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Egypt, France, Spain, Tunisia; Campanian of Bulgaria, France, Jamaica, Madagascar, Oman, Spain, Sweden, United States of

America, United Arab Emirates; Löser *et al.*, 2005), coral faunas from the Maastrichtian are rare. Moreover, several faunas originally considered Maastrichtian turned out to be older (Swinburne *et al.*, 1992) or became Campanian after redefinition of the Campanian-Maastrichtian boundary (Odin, 1996). Most Maastrichtian coral faunas are represented by faunas of deeper marine environments whose small solitary corals are mainly ahermatypic. Important faunas of shallow marine environments, predominantly hermatypic corals, are known from a few areas, such as in Iran (Kühn, 1933; Khazaei *et al.*, 2010, coral fauna under investigation by the author), Italy (Matteucci *et al.*, 1982), Jamaica (Vaughan, 1899; Wells, 1934, 1935; Baron-Szabo, 2006, 2008), Northwest Mexico (Baron-Szabo *et al.*, 2006), the Netherlands (Goldfuss, 1826, 1829; Umbgrove, 1925; Leloux, 2003, 2004; Löser, 2012), Spain (Bataller, 1936, 1937; Alloiteau, 1958), and the border area between the United Arab Emirates and Oman (Baron-Szabo, 2000).

The taxonomic composition of Maastrichtian coral faunas does not compare well with Santonian and Campanian faunas. Maastrichtian faunas contain many new elements. Nor do the few isolated Maastrichtian faunas compare well with each other because of the large geographic distances which separate them and varying palaeolatitudes. Not all known Maastrichtian coral faunas are taxonomically updated. All this makes it difficult comparisons of the faunas. The Maastrichtian coral fauna of the Ocozocoautla Formation (Chiapas, Mexico) was taxonomically first reported by Filkorn *et al.* (2005), but without using thin sections.

Corals have delicate, complexly structured skeletons. Some extant corals can be determined by using just a binocular microscope. In fossil members the view is obstructed by sediment within the skeleton. For a better understanding of their morphology, fossil corals should therefore be polished and sectioned. For illustrations thin sections are required

in both transverse and longitudinal orientations. These methods have been known for over a century. If they are not applied either for technical reasons or because the material is in a poor state of preservation, systematic positioning and proper determination of the material cannot be guaranteed. The contribution by Filkorn *et al.* (2005) contained detailed descriptions, but the characteristics as stated were not reflected in the illustrations, which showed only complete specimens that had not undergone sectioning or surface polishing. The author had an opportunity to visit the study area and take new samples, which were then subjected to the standard procedure of sectioning, polishing, preparing thin sections and systematic measurement of calicular dimensions. The resulting taxonomy is presented here.

STUDY AREA

The observed material comes from the Ocozocoautla Fm. that crops out northwest of the Ocozocoautla town (Figure 1). There, a total thickness of 630 m of the Ocozocoautla Formation is estimated. This formation is mainly composed of conglomerate and sandstone at its base, grading upwards into fossil rich limestone in its middle part, and sandstone at the top, indicating a varying water depth (Vega *et al.*, 2001). The corals are found in the limestone. The samples were collected somewhat to the west of sample location 5 (Filkorn *et al.*, 2005) from an small area where vegetation were removed. Since the outcrop situation close to the highway is no longer as good as described by Vega *et al.* (2001) and Filkorn *et al.* (2005), it was not possible to make systematic collections or improve knowledge on sedimentological or taphonomical aspects. From the small outcrop area it was not clear whether the corals were in *situ* or not.

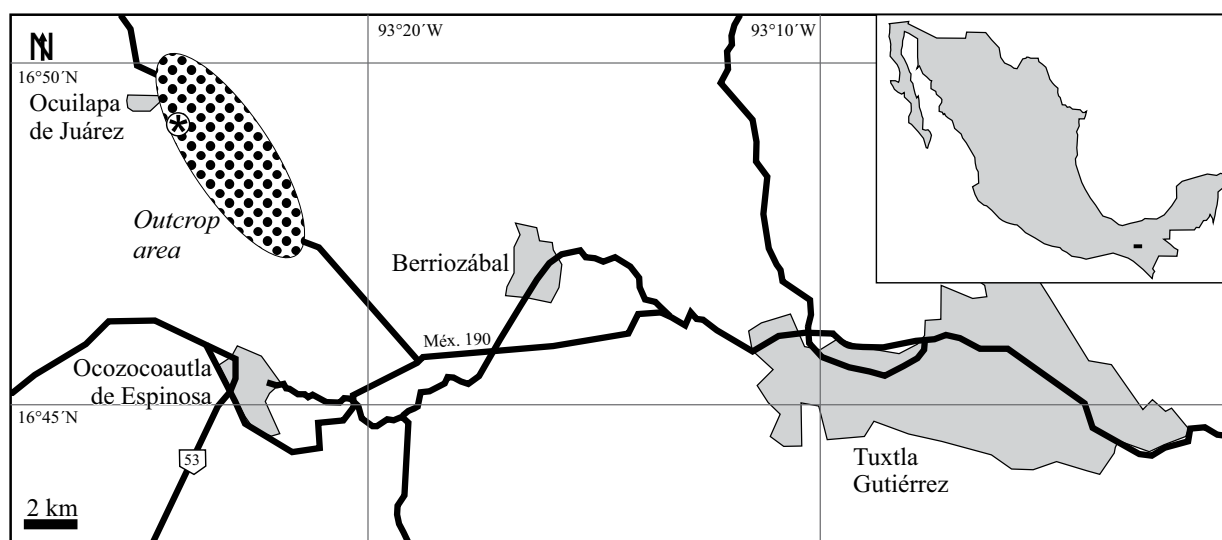


Figure 1. Outcrop area close to Ocozocoautla town. The outcrop area sampled by Filkorn *et al.* (2005) lies on the road to Ocuilapa de Juárez. The sample point of the material here presented is marked with an asterisk.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Corals were easily collected as loose samples weathered out from soft sediments. The material is very well preserved. The coral skeletons are rarely deformed. In many cases they show fine septal ornamentation and even microstructures are preserved in places. All coral samples are small with a size of less than 60 mm (the holotype of *Filkornia parasolitaria* being the largest sample).

Most species indicated by Filkorn *et al.* (2005) were found in the locality, but original determinations are revised here. The material originally depicted by Filkorn *et al.* (2005) is kept in the Mexican National Palaeontological Collection at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Instituto de Geología (IGL), and is numbered 8432 to 8443. It was available for study but was not examined by sections or thin sections. Some topotypical material in the IGL collection numbered 9281 to 9285 was used to prepare thin sections. The newly collected samples numbered L-7000 to L-7045 are stored in the Palaeontological Collection of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Instituto de Geología, Estación Regional del Noroeste (Hermosillo; acronym ERNO).

The following Maastrichtian coral material (contained in museum and institutional collections; collection acronyms as indicated below) was studied for comparison:

Maastrichtian corals described by Goldfuss (1826, 1829; IPB), Leloux (2003, 2004; NNM, DGP), Umbgrove (1925; NNM) and Löser (2011, 2012; IPB, NNM, DGP) from the Netherlands.

Campanian/Maastrichtian corals from Jamaica described by Duncan and Wall (1865, NHM), Vaughan (1899; USNM and MCZ), Wells (1934; USNM), Wells (1935; NHM) and Baron-Szabo (2006, 2008; USNM).

Maastrichtian corals described by Alloiteau (1958), Vidal (1917, 1921), Bataller (1936, 1937), Reig Oriol (1987, 1992; MGSB) Reig Oriol and Vilella (1995; MGSB) from Spain.

Campanian/Maastrichtian corals from the OMAN/U.A.R. border area described by Baron-Szabo (2000; NHM) and own samples (ERNO).

Maastrichtian corals described by Baron-Szabo *et al.* (2006) from San Luis Potosí, Mexico (IGM).

Maastrichtian corals mentioned by Khazaei *et al.* (2010) from the SW Iran (UB), which are under investigation.

The sample material was prepared as transverse and longitudinal polished and thin sections. Examination was carried out, using a Zeiss Stemi-2000 binocular microscope. Thin sections were scanned by an Epson Perfection flat-bed scanner with an attached transparency unit at an optical resolution of up to 6400 dpi (dots per inch). The grey-scale bitmaps obtained were improved by grey-scale stretching. Illustrations were directly obtained by scanning thin sections.

To gain more insight into the intraspecific variation

of fossil corals and to obtain a better strategy for comparing species, calicular dimensions in thin sections obtained from one to three different samples of each species were systematically measured. To achieve statistical significance, the largest number of possible measurements was taken. This number was mainly determined by the size and quality of the thin section and the size of the single calices in relation to the size of the thin sections. Thin sections were measured and values were calculated using the program PaleoTax/Measure (www.paleotax.de/measure/; Löser 2012, accepted).

SYSTEMATICS

The following abbreviations stand for the various collections:

- DGP, Ammonietenhoeve/De Groene Poort, Boxtel, The Netherlands;
- ERNO, UNAM, Instituto de Geología, Estación Regional de Noroeste, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Hermosillo, Mexico;
- IGM, Instituto de Geología, Mexico City, Mexico;
- IPB, Universität Bonn, Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut, Bonn, Germany;
- MB, Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Germany;
- MCZ, Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., USA;
- MGSB, Museo Geológico del Seminario de Barcelona, Spain;
- MNHN, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France;
- NHM, The Natural History Museum, London, England;
- NNM, Naturalis - Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands;
- UB, University of Birjand, Department of Geology, Birjand, Iran;
- USNM, United States National Museum, Washington, D.C., USA.

The following abbreviations are used for the dimensions of corals:

- c calicular diameter;
- c max larger outer calicular diameter;
- c min smaller outer calicular diameter;
- ccd distance between calicular centres;
- cl calicular diameter (calicular pit);
- cl max large lumen;
- cl min small lumen;
- crd distance of calicular series;
- crw width of calicular series;
- s number of radial elements in adult calices;
- sd density of radial elements;
- n number of measurements.

For each type of measurement (calicular diameter and distance, width and distance of calicular row) in one thin section the following values were obtained:

min-max lowest and highest measured value;
 μ arithmetic mean (average);
 s standard deviation;
 cv coefficient of variation;
 $\mu \pm s$ first interval.

The abbreviations used in the synonym lists follow Matthews (1973):

* earliest valid publication of the species name;
 ? the assignation of this description to the species is doubtful (so marked quotations are not reflected in the stratigraphic and palaeobiogeographic distribution);
 non the described material does not belong to the species concerned;
 p the described material belongs only in part to the species concerned;
 v the specimen was observed by the author.

Suborder Archeocaeniina Alloiteau, 1952
 Family Actinastreaeidae Alloiteau, 1952
 Genus *Actinastrea* d'Orbigny, 1849

***Actinastrea reticulata* (Goldfuss, 1829)**

Figure 2a-2c

*v *Astrea reticulata* Goldfuss, 1829, p. 111, pl. 38, fig. 10
 v *Actinastrea ramosa* Michelin. Löser, 1998, p. 79, pl. 1, fig. 1
 v *Actinastrea benaixensis* Alloiteau, 1954. Baron-Szabo, 1998, p. 128, pl. 1, fig. 1
 v *Actinohelia elegans* Goldfuss. Filkorn *et al.*, 2005, p. 124, fig. 2i

Dimensions. See Table 1.

Description. Massive cerioid colony. Calicular outline circular. Calicular pit depressed. Septa compact, in cross section thick on the outside, getting very thin towards the centre. Symmetry of septa radial and regularly octomeral. Cycles of septa regular. Two cycles. Septal cycles differ in length. First septal cycle reaches up to the centre of the calice, the following one is shorter. Septa of the second cycle occasionally attached to those of the first cycle. Septal upper margin not preserved, lateral face shows occasional small thorn, inner margin smooth. Pali or paliform lobes absent. All septa of the first cycle and some of the second cycle are attached to the columella. Costae hardly present, non-confluent, with thick granules on the surface. Synapticulae absent. Columella styliiform. Endotheca consists of a few thin tabulae. Wall compact, septothecal. Coenosteum narrow (up to 25 % of the calicular diameter). It consists of costae and single large trabeculae and is granulated on the surface. Budding extracalicular.

Table 1. Dimensions of *Actinastrea reticulata* (Goldfuss, 1829).

(7004)	n	min-max	μ	s	cv	$\mu \pm s$
cl	30	1.35-1.63	1.47	0.09	5.8	1.38-1.56
ccd	30	1.44-2.38	1.9	0.24	12.7	1.66-2.14
s	8 s1 + 8 s2					

Material. ERNO L-7004, L-7005, L-7010, IGM 8440.

Discussion. *Actinohelia* d'Orbigny, 1849 is based on *Actinohelia elegans* (Goldfuss, 1826), a Maastrichtian coral from the St. Pietersberg hill close to Maastricht (The Netherlands). *Actinohelia* is closely related to *Montipora* Blainville, 1830 or *Astreopora* Blainville, 1830. The material under discussion belongs to the genus *Actinastrea* s.s. (Löser, 2012). Beauvais (1982) doubted that the only available syntype of *A. reticulata* (IPB GF296) was identical with the illustration in Goldfuss (1829). He assigned the illustrations in Goldfuss (1829) to various species. This is, however, doubtful as no scale is indicated for the enlarged details so that they cannot be assigned. The originally illustrated type is for the present assumed to be the (only) syntype.

Occurrence. Santonian of Austria (Upper Austria), Gosau. Early Campanian of Turkey (Iller Amasya) Amasya, Höbek Tepe. Early Late Campanian of Spain (Cataluña, Lérida) Com. Pallars Jussà, Mun. Pallars Jussà, Pobla de Segur, Torallola. Maastrichtian of Mexico (Chiapas), roadcut north of Ocozocoautla.

Genus *Columactinastraea* Alloiteau, 1952

***Columactinastraea hilli* (Wells, 1934)**

Figure 2d-2f

v *Centrastrea hilli* Wells, 1934, p. 80, pl. 2, figs. 11, 12.
 v *Columactinastraea parvistella* Reig Oriol, 1992, p. 32, pl. 7, figs. 2, 3.
 v *Columactinastraea pygmaea* Felix. Baron-Szabo, 2003, p. 116, pl. 1, figs. 1, 3, 4, 6, pl. 2, figs. 1-7
 v *Actinastrea* sp. Filkorn *et al.*, 2005, p. 118, fig. 2a

Dimensions. See Table 2.

Description. Massive cerioid colony. Calicular outline circular. Calicular pit depressed. Septa compact, in cross section thick on the outside, getting thinner towards the centre. Symmetry of septa radial and regularly hexameral. Cycles of septa regular. Two cycles. Septal cycles differ in length. First septal cycle reaches up to the centre of the calice, the second one is shorter. Septa free. Septal upper margin not preserved, lateral face with numerous small thorns. Pali on the first septal cycle. Some septa of the first cycle may be attached to the columella. Costae hardly present, non-confluent. Synapticulae absent. Columella styliiform. Endotheca consists of numerous thin tabulae. Wall compact, septothecal. Coenosteum absent. Budding extracalicular.

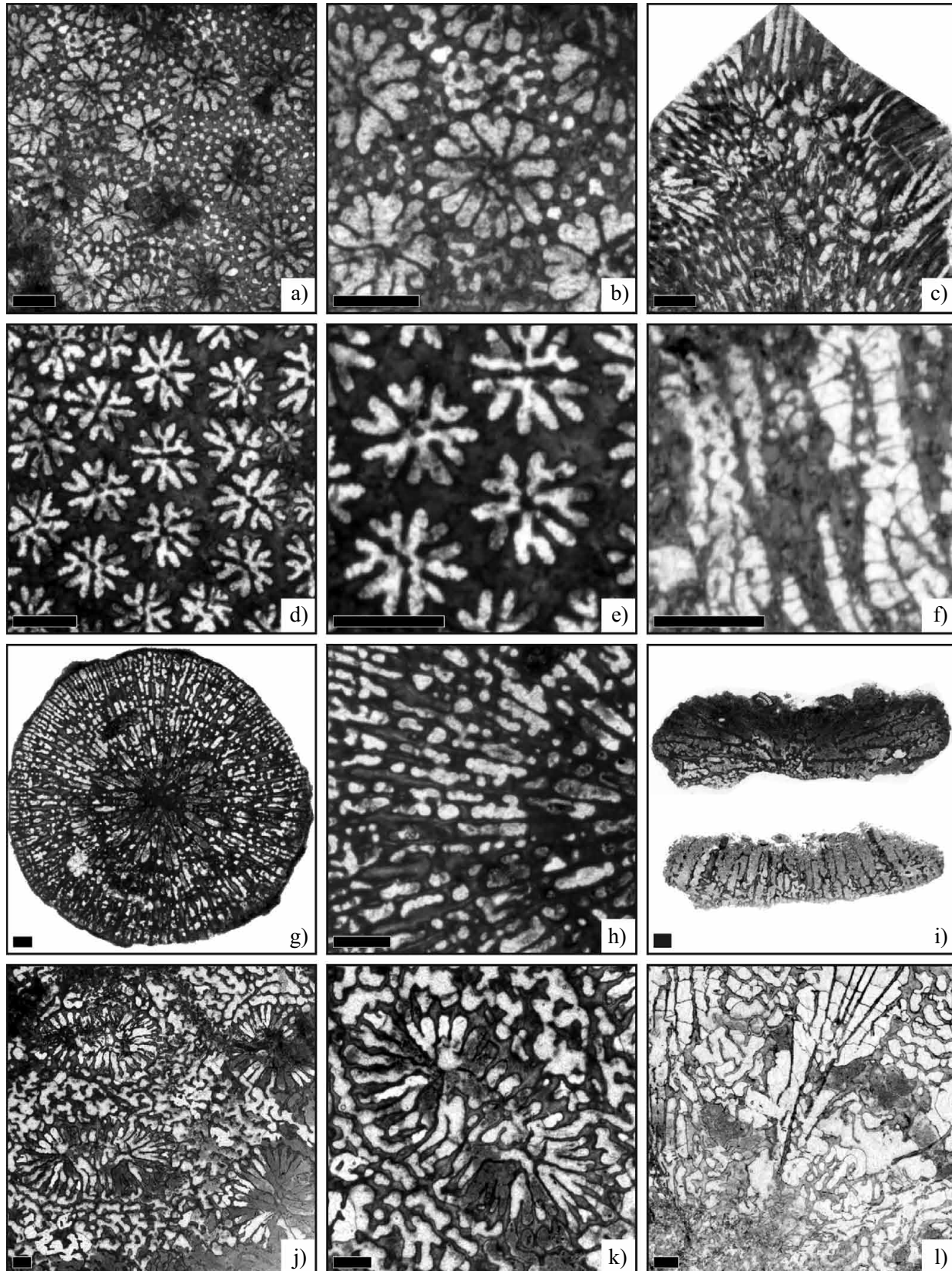


Figure 2. a) *Actinastrea reticulata* (Goldfuss, 1829), ERNO L-7004, transverse thin section. b) transversal thin section, detail. c) oblique thin section to show endotheca and ornamentation of septal lateral face. d) *Columactinastraea hilli* (Wells, 1934), ERNO L-7019, transversal thin section. e) transversal thin section, detail. f) ERNO L-7001, longitudinal thin section. g) *Fungiidae* indet., IGM 9283, transverse thin section. h) transversal thin section, detail. i) IGM 9285, longitudinal thin section (A). i) longitudinal thin section (B). j) *Favioseris* sp., ERNO L-7016, transversal thin section. k) transversal thin section, detail. l) longitudinal thin section. Scale 1 mm.

Material. ERNO L-7001, L-7019, L-7031, L-7032, IGM 8432.

Discussion. Filkorn *et al.* (2005) did not consider this taxonomic name to be a possible candidate for their material. It was originally assigned to *Centrastrea* d'Orbigny, 1849 (= *Thamnasteria* Lesauvage, 1823). The holotype (USNM I-74492) was available for study and was found to coincide with the material, even though uncut and not available in thin sections.

Occurrence. Early Santonian of Austria (Upper Austria) Gosau, Grabenbach. Late Santonian of Austria (Upper Austria) Russbach-Hochmoos. Early Late Campanian of Spain (Cataluña, Lérida) Com. Pallars Jussà, Mun. Pallars Jussà, Pobla de Segur, Torallola. Maastrichtian of Mexico (Chiapas), roadcut north of Ocozocoautla. Late Maastrichtian of Jamaica (St. James) Catadupa.

Suborder Fungiina Verrill, 1868-70
Family Felixaraeidae Beauvais, 1982

Genus *Filkornia* new genus

Type species. *Filkornia parasolitaria* new species.

Diagnosis. Astreoid colony with large calices and large septal numbers.

Description. Astreoid colony. Calices large. Septa regularly but not abundantly perforated. Microstructure of large trabeculae. Septa in cross section thick on the outside, getting thinner towards the centre. First cycles disproportionately thick compared with younger ones. Symmetry of septa irregularly radial. Cycles of septa subregular. Septal cycles differ in length and thickness. Septa free. Septal upper border coarsely granulated, lateral face with numerous large thorns, inner margin slightly swollen in places. Pali or paliform lobes absent. Some septa of the first cycle are attached to the columella. Costae present, but short, non-confluent. Synapticulae present. Columella consists of a large group of isolated trabeculae, endotheca of numerous thin tabulae. Wall compact, septothecal. Coenosteum absent. Budding intracalicular.

Etymology. Named after Harry Filkorn, who was the first to investigate the taxonomy of the Ocozocoautla coral fauna.

Occurrence. Maastrichtian of Mexico and Jamaica.

Discussion. The new genus can be compared with *Felixaraea* Beauvais, 1982 and *Pseudofavia* Oppenheim, 1930. It was found to differ from the first by its colonial growth form and from the second by its astreoid growth mode and a much larger number of septa. In its calicular centre it resembles *Paracycloseris* Wells, 1933, which also may belong to the Felixaraeidae (and not to the Cyclolitidae Alloiteau, 1952 as proposed by Baron-Szabo, 2008, because it lacks penulae). The new genus represents a particular growth form. It starts as a solitary coral on a small stem or attached to another coral or to a shell. The calice may reach a large diameter before new calices are formed. For that reason the type species is considered a solitary coral in the literature.

Table 2. Dimensions of the *Columactinastraea hilli* (Wells, 1934).

(7019)	n	min-max	μ	s	cv	$\mu \pm s$
cl	30	0.96-1.16	1.06	0.06	5.9	0.99-1.12
ccd	30	0.91-1.32	1.11	0.11	10.2	0.99-1.22
s	6 s1 + 6 s2					

The calice divides after reaching a certain size. When the colony is growing larger, older calices are often completely overgrown (Figures 3a, 3f).

Filkornia parasolitaria new species

Figures. 3a-3j, 4a, 6a

? *Trochoseris catadupensis* Vaughan. Wells, 1934, p. 78, pl. 2, figs. 9, 10.

v *Trochoseris catadupensis* Vaughan. Filkorn *et al.*, 2005, p. 123, fig. 2h.

v *Trochomilia hilli* Vaughan. Filkorn *et al.*, 2005, fig. 2d
v *Cyathoseris formosa* d'Achiardi. Baron-Szabo *et al.*, 2006, p. 1041, fig. 5.7.

v *Mycetophyllia multistellata* Reuss. Baron-Szabo, 2006, p. 42, pl. 5, fig. 5, pl. 7, fig. 2, 3.

Diagnosis. *Filkornia* with a calicular diameter of 25 to 35 mm and a variable number of septa ranging from 190 to 240.

Description. Astreoid colony. Calicular outline circular to elliptical. Calicular pit depressed. Septa regularly but not abundantly perforated. Septa in cross section thick on the outside, getting thinner towards the centre. First cycles disproportionately thick compared with younger ones. Septal maximal thickness ca. 1 mm. Symmetry of septa irregularly radial. Cycles of septa subregular. Number of septa varies between 190 - 240, depending on the size of the individual calice. Septal cycles differ in length and thickness. First three septal cycles reach up to the centre of the calice, the following ones are shorter. Septal upper border coarsely granulated, lateral face with numerous large thorns, inner margin slightly swollen in places. Pali or paliform lobes absent. Some septa of the first cycle are attached to the columella. Costae present, but short, non-confluent. Ornamentation of the costae not preserved. Synapticulae present, abundant. Columella consists of a large group of isolated trabeculae, endotheca of numerous thin tabulae. Wall compact, septothecal. Coenosteum absent. Budding intracalicular.

Etymology. After its strange growth form, pretending to be a solitary coral.

Types. Holotype ERNO L-7043, paratypes ERNO L-7008, 7012, 7018. All types from the Maastrichtian (Ocozocoautla Formation) of Ocozocoautla (Chiapas, Mexico), WGS84 16°48'51"N 93°22'12"W.

Dimensions. See Table 3.

Material. ERNO L-7008, L-7012, L-7017, L-7018, L-7040, L-7041, L-7042, L-7043, L-7044, IGM 8435, 8439.

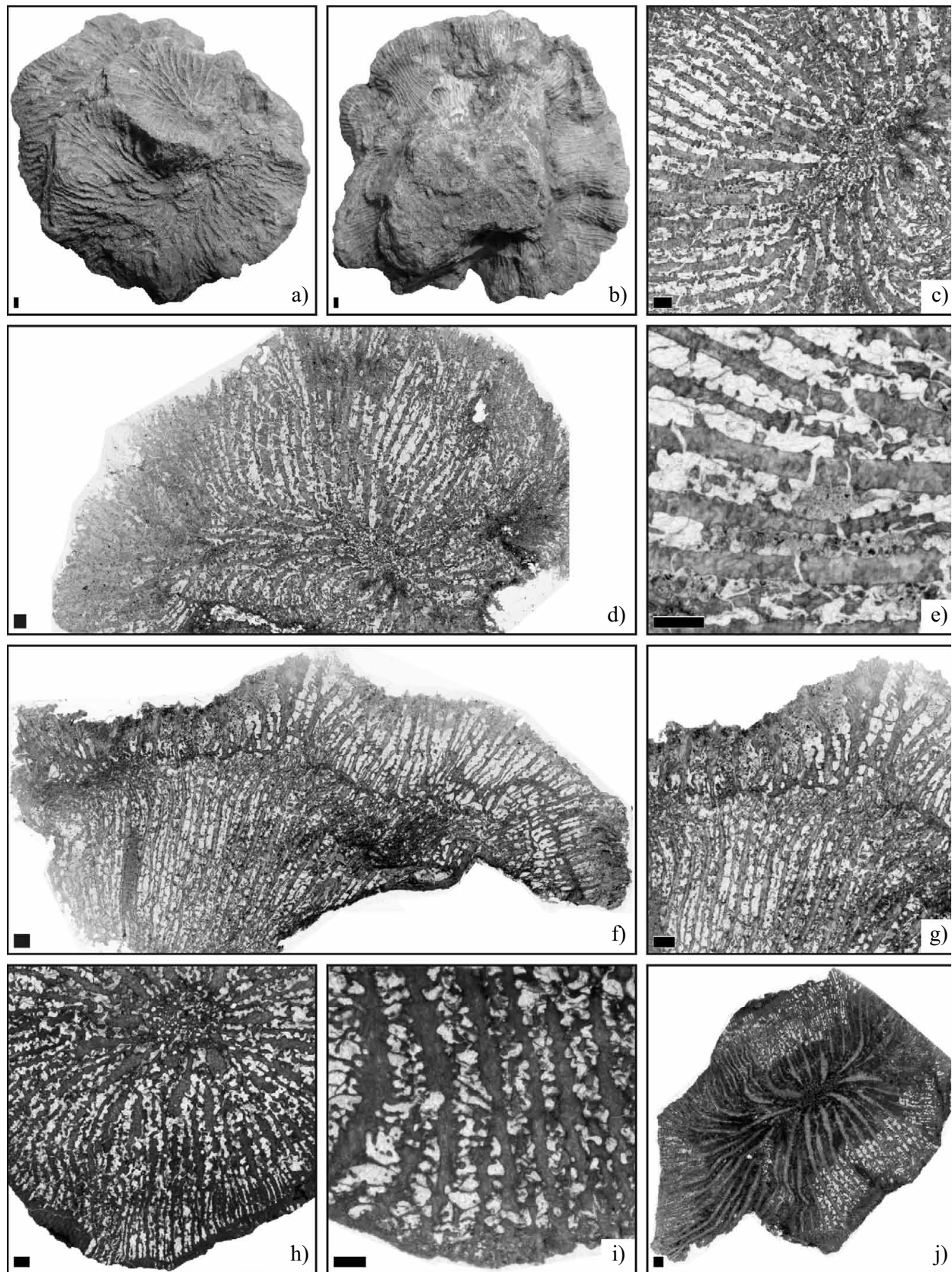


Figure 3. a) *Filkornia parasolitaria* n. gen. n. sp., ERNO L-7043, holotype, Colony surface. b) Aboral coral surface. c) transversal thin section, detail. d) transversal thin section. e) transversal thin section, microstructural detail. f) longitudinal thin section. g) longitudinal thin section, detail. h) ERNO L-7008, paratype, transversal thin section. i) longitudinal thin section. j) ERNO L-7018, paratype, transversal thin section. Scale 1 mm.

Table 3. Dimension of *Filkornia parasolitaria* new species.

	c min - c max	s	sd
(7008)	30-31	240	12/5
(7012)	25-27	190	13/5
(7018)	22-33	210	17/5
(7043)	27-40	220	12/5

Table 4. Dimensions of Fungiidae gen. et spec. indet.

	d	h	s	sdc
IGM 8442	ca. 25	ca. 8	192	5/2mm
IGM 9281	15x17	5	196	
IGM 9282	15x16	4	192	
IGM 9283	15x15	6	188	

Occurrence. Maastrichtian (Ocozocoautla Formation) of Ocozocoautla (Chiapas, Mexico); Maastrichtian (Upper Cárdenas Fm.) of Arroyo de la Atarjea (Cárdenas, San Luis Potosí, Mexico); Maastrichtian (Guinea Corn Fm.) of various localities in Jamaica.

Discussion. Material of *Filkornia parasolitaria* as described before for various genera cannot be applied to this material. *Mycetophyllia* Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848b, as a member of the Mussidae, suborder Faviina, has compact septa, dentated upper septal margins and almost smooth lateral faces. The columella is poorly developed. It is moreover a coral with a meandrinoid calicular arrangement. *Mycetophyllia* has been not so far indicated in the Cretaceous. The present material has perforated septa, strongly ornamented lateral septal faces and a well-defined columella. Although the general appearance of *Cyathoseris* Milne Edwards and Haime, 1849 is reminiscent of this genus (see for instance Pfister, 1980), the genus cannot be applied to the present material. *Cyathoseris* forms thamnasterioid colonies with a circumoral budding mode. Septa are compact in *Cyathoseris*.

Both solitary coral species created by Vaughan (1899) and applied to the present material by Filkorn *et al.* (2005) are poorly defined corals. The types were at hand. One (*T. hilli* Vaughan, 1899) is unsectioned, the other (*T. catadupensis* Vaughan, 1899) has a polished surface, which is not well preserved.

Family Fungiidae Dana, 1846

gen. et sp. indet.

Figures 2g-2i, 6b

v *Paracycloseris elizabethae* Wells. Filkorn *et al.*, 2005 p. 125, fig. 2k.

vp *Paracycloseris nariensis* Duncan. Baron-Szabo, 2008, p. 180, pl. 17, fig. 7-9, non 1-6.

Dimensions. See Table 4.

Description. Solitary cupolate coral. Calicular outline circular. Septa irregularly perforated, more in younger than in older septa. Microstructure of medium-sized trabeculae. Septa in cross section thin on the outside, becoming thicker and then thinner again towards the centre. Symmetry of septa radial and regularly hexamerous. Cycles of septa sub-regular. Septal cycles differ in length and thickness. First two septal cycles reach up to the centre of the calice, the follow-

ing ones are shorter. Septa free. Septal upper border coarsely granulated, lateral face with numerous small granules, inner margin smooth. Pali or paliform lobes absent. Costae hardly present, ornamentation not preserved. Synapticulae present, abundant, compound (*fulturae*). Columella in the form of a group of trabecular elements. Endotheca absent. Wall compact, septothecal.

Material. IGM 8442, 9281-9285.

Discussion. The sample taken by Filkorn *et al.* (2005) is not sectioned and its characteristics are unknown. Description and illustration are based on additional collection material. The description given in Filkorn *et al.* (2005) corresponds to that given for *Paracycloseris elizabethae* Wells, 1934, but not to the material from the study area.

Under the name *Paracycloseris elizabethae* Wells, 1934, Baron-Szabo (2008, pl. 17) lumps together material which does not belong to the same species, genus and family: figures 1 and 2 represent *Paracycloseris elizabethae* Wells, 1934 *sensu stricto*; figures 3 and 4 are refigurations of *Trochocyathus nariensis* Duncan, 1880 (a Cenozoic species); figure 5 is *Leptocyathus hexacrystatus* Alloiteau, 1936 *sensu stricto*; figures 7 to 9 correspond to the material represented here. *Paracycloseris elizabethae* belongs to the family Felixaraeidae, the systematic positions of *Trochocyathus nariensis* and *Leptocyathus hexacrystatus* are questionable as the degree of perforation of the septal blades and the existence of synapticulae in this material are unknown. It cannot be ruled out for both species that the perforations shown in the figures are just preservation bias. The material corresponding to the material from Chiapas shows that there are synapticular bars (*fulturae*), which clearly indicates its position in the Fungiina suborder. As it was not possible to collect new material and only a few specimens could be loaned from the rich IGM collection, a new taxon cannot be established at the moment for this material.

Occurrence. Maastrichtian of Mexico (Chiapas), roadcut north of Ocozocoautla. Late Maastrichtian of Jamaica (Clarendon) Grantham, Rio Minho.

Suborder Meandrinina Alloiteau, 1952

Family Pachyphyllidae Alloiteau, 1957

Genus *Favioseris* Wells, 1934

***Favioseris anomalos* Wells, 1934**

Figures 4b-4e, 6c

v *Favioseris anomalos* Wells, 1934, p. 82, pl. 4, fig. 19, 20
 v? *Dichocoenia trechmanni* Wells, 1934, p. 75, pl. 2, fig. 7, 8
 v *Barysmilia trechmanni* Wells. Filkorn *et al.*, 2005 p. 119,
 fig. 2c; Baron-Szabo, 2006, p. 85, pl. 16, fig. 4, 7
 v *Favia? gregoryi* Wells. Filkorn *et al.*, 2005, p. 122, fig. 2f
 vp *Dichocoenia anomalos* Wells. Baron-Szabo, 2006 p. 81,
 pl. 16, fig. 2 non 8

Dimensions. See Table 5.

Description. Massive plocoid colony. Calicular outline elliptical. Calicular centres slightly depressed, margins elevated. Septa compact. Microstructure of small-sized trabeculae, septa with a median dark line. Septa (and costae) in cross section in the wall thick, thinner towards the centre. Symmetry of septa irregular. Septal generations differ in length and thickness. First septal generation reaches 40-45 % of the (shorter) calicular diameter, the following generations are shorter. Septa free. Septal upper margin smooth, lateral face with thorns, inner margin T-shaped or swollen in places. Pali or paliform lobes absent. Some septa may be attached to the columella. Costae present, non-confluent, smooth on the surface. Synapticulae absent. Columella small, lamellar. Endotheca of thin tabulae. Wall sub-compact, septothecal. Coenosteum of medium width (about 30 % of the calicular diameter) consisting of costae and numerous dissepiments. Budding extracalicular.

Material. ERNO L-7013, L-7014, L-7015, L-7033, L-7034, L-7035, IGM 8434, 8437.

Discussion. The present material coincides with the original description and with the holotype of the species (USNM I-74480). Hence, the holotype is a specimen without thin sections and with only a very small polished surface. A detailed analysis of the septal microstructure, the calicular centre and the endotheca is not possible. Topotypical material from the type area was examined. But there are various species which fit the outer appearance of *Favioseris anomalos* so that our knowledge cannot be widened without sectioning the type specimen.

The material cannot be assigned to *Ovalastrea* (as proposed by Wells, 1935) because septa are compact and free and synapticulae are absent. In *Ovalastrea*, septa are

perforated at their inner margins, often connected to each other and synapticulae are present.

The material cannot be placed in the genus *Barysmilia* Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848a for two reasons: firstly, the holotype of the type species of *Barysmilia* (*Dendrophyllia brevicaulis* Michelin, 1841; MNHN M01126) is from Uchaux (Vaucluse, France) and is so poorly preserved that it can hardly be assigned even to a family. It is erroneous to think that *Barysmilia* is a rhipidogyrid genus (as claimed by Baron-Szabo, 1998, 2006). The type of the type species does not allow this conclusion. The family Rhipidogyridae became moreover extinct before the Albian (Löser, 2005). The material cannot be assigned to *Dichocoenia* Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848a. Although *Dichocoenia* has a "meandrinid" microstructure consisting of small trabeculae comparable to the present material, its wall is septothecal and very thick, the costae are very short, and the coenosteum is dense and consists of thick extracalicular tabulae.

Occurrence. Maastrichtian of Mexico (Chiapas), roadcut north of Ocozocoautla. Late Maastrichtian of Jamaica (Clarendon), Grantham, Rio Minho; Logie Green section. (?) Late Maastrichtian of Jamaica (St. James), Catadupa.

Favioseris sp.

Figures 2j-2l, 6d

v *Dichocoenia anomalos* (Wells, 1934) - Baron-Szabo, 2006, p. 81, pl. 16, fig. 8

Dimensions. See Table 6.

Description. Massive plocoid colony. Calicular outline circular to elliptical. Calicular centres slightly depressed, margins elevated. Septa compact. Microstructure of small-sized trabeculae, septa with median dark lines. Septa (and costae) in cross section in the wall thick, thinner towards the centre. Symmetry of septa irregular. Septal generations differ in length and thickness. First septal generation reaches 40-45 % of the (shorter) calicular diameter, following generations are shorter. Septa free. Septal upper margin smooth, lateral face with thorns, inner margin T-shaped in places. Pali or paliform lobes absent. Some septa may be attached to the columella. Costae present, short, non-confluent, smooth on the surface. Synapticulae absent. Columella lamellar. Endotheca of thin tabulae. Wall perforated, septoparathecal. Coenosteum of medium width (ca. 30 % of the calicular diameter) consists of isolated fragments of costae and few dissepiments. Budding extracalicular.

Material. ERNO L-7016.

Table 5. Dimensions of *Favioseris anomalos* Wells, 1934.

	n	min-max	μ	s	cv	$\mu \pm s$
(7013)						
cl min	12	1.95-3.04	2.51	0.34	15.8	2.11-2.90
cl max	10	3.76-5.11	4.45	0.45	10.2	3.99-4.90
ccd	20	3.34-6.87	5.03	1.06	20.9	3.97-6.09
s	30-36					
(7014)						
cl min	10	1.91-3.27	2.56	0.52	20.2	2.03-3.07
cl max	10	2.7-4.92	3.66	0.62	17.0	3.04-4.28
ccd	15	3.3-6.28	4.82	0.95	19.7	3.86-5.76
s	26-32					

Table 6. Dimensions of *Favioseris* sp.

	n	min-max	μ	s	cv	$\mu \pm s$
(7016)						
cl min	7	3.20-4.31	3.61	0.37	10.1	3.24-3.98
cl max	6	4.68-7.18	5.79	0.87	15.0	4.92-6.66
ccd	10	5.1-9.84	7.67	1.66	21.6	6.01-9.33
s	32-48					

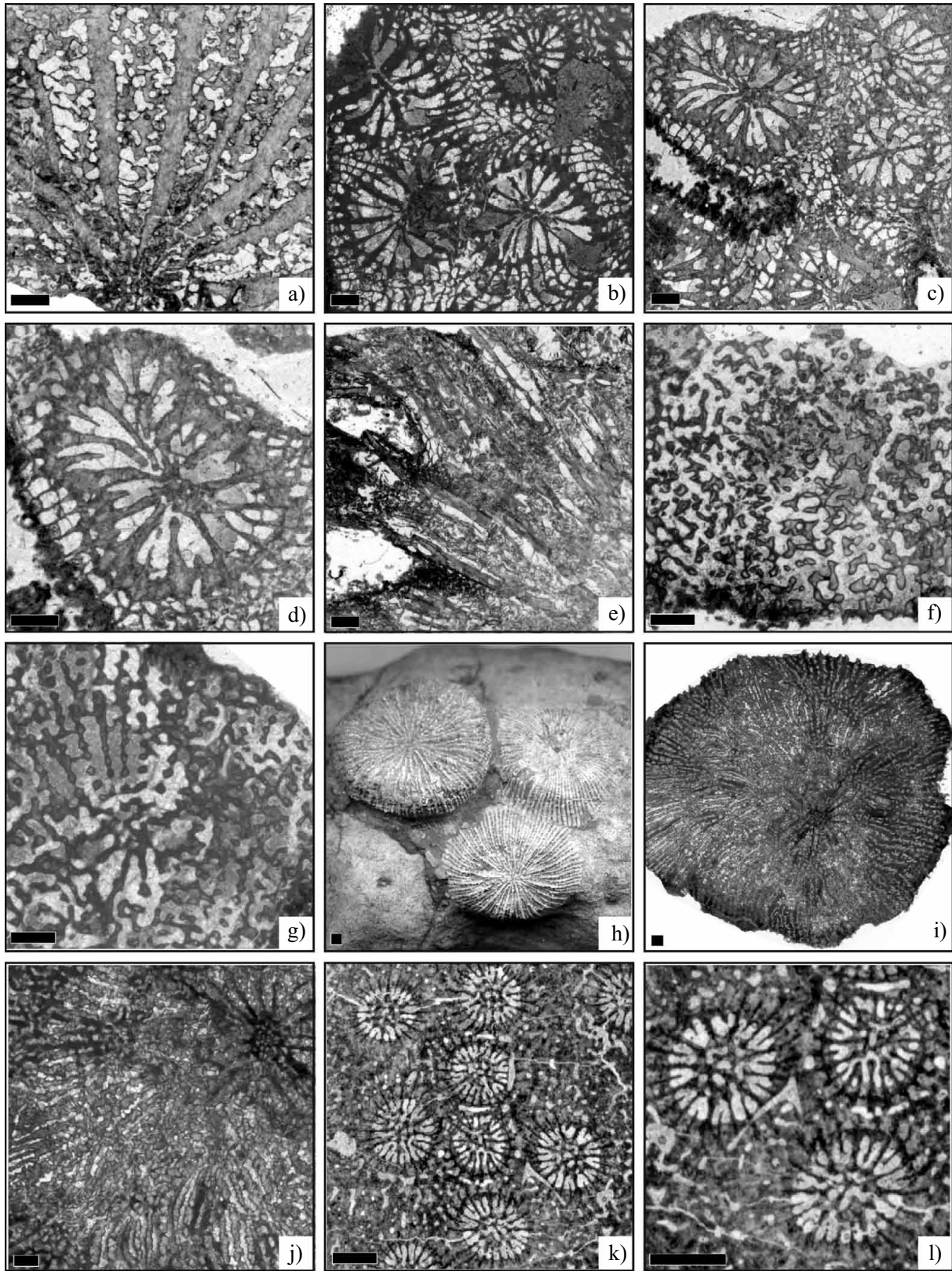


Figure 4. a) *Filkornia parasolitaria* n. gen. n. sp., ERNO L-7018, paratype, longitudinal thin section. b) *Favioseris anomalos* Wells, 1934, ERNO L-7014, transversal thin section. c) ERNO L-7013, transversal thin section. d) transversal thin section, detail. e) ERNO L-7033, longitudinal thin section. f) ?*Microsolena* sp., ERNO L-7007, transversal thin section. g) ERNO L-7022, oblique thin section to show penular structure. h) ERNO L-7023, Surface with three juvenile individuals. i) ERNO L-7045, transversal thin section of a larger specimen. j) transversal thin section of a larger specimen, detail. k) *Multicolumnastra* sp., ERNO L-7003, transversal thin section. l) transversal thin section, detail. Scale 1 mm.

Discussion. The material differs from *Favioseris anomalos* by the very short costae, the perforate wall and a divergent coenosteum.

Occurrence. Maastrichtian of Mexico (Chiapas), roadcut north of Ocozocoautla. Campanian to Maastrichtian of Jamaica.

Family Phyllosmiliidae Felix, 1903

Genus *Pachygyra* Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848a

Discussion. *Pachygyra* was formerly assigned to the poorly defined Meandrinidae family (see Löser *et al.*, 2010). *Meandrina* Lamarck, 1801 might be characterised by small trabeculae but it has smooth septal inner borders, whereas many Late Cretaceous so-called Meandrinids have T-shaped or rhopaloid septal inner margins. Forms with small trabeculae and T-shaped or rhopaloid septal inner margins are separated in the Phyllosmiliidae family. Material of *Turbinolia basochesi* DeFrance, 1828, type species of *Phyllosmilia* de Fromental, 1862, from the type locality (France, Bochedu-Rhône, Marseille, port of Figuière; Late Santonian) was examined and confirms the above morphological features.

***Pachygyra cf. ilerdensis* (Reig Oriol, 1989)**

Figures 5a-5c, 6e

v *Dictuophyllia conferticostata* Vaughan. Filkorn *et al.*, 2005, p. 123, fig. 2g.

Dimensions. See Table 7.

Description. Massive meandrinoid colony. Calicular rows slightly elevated over the colony surface. Calicular rows long and curved. Calices indistinct. Septa compact. Microstructure of small-sized trabeculae, septa with median dark lines. Septa in cross section bicuneiform close to the wall, thinner towards the centre. Symmetry of septa irregular. Septal generations differ in length and thickness. First septal generation reaches up to the centre of the row, the following generations are shorter. Septa free. Septal upper border smooth, lateral face with small thorns, inner margin slightly swollen in places. Pali or paliform lobes absent. Costae present, sub-confluent to non-confluent, smooth on the surface. Synapticulae absent. Columella as a continuous lamella. Endotheca consists of thin tabulae. Wall compact, septothecal. Coenosteum broad, consisting of costae and exothecal dissepiments. Budding intracalicular.

Material. ERNO L-7009, L-7011, L-7024, L-7025, L-7026, L-7027, L-7028, IGM 8438.

Discussion. The name *Dictuophyllia* Blainville, 1830 should

not be used any more since the type of the type species is an external mould which does not provide much information concerning the skeleton microstructure. *Pachygyra conferticostata* cannot be used as a specific name on account of its smaller dimensions (width of calicular rows 0.8 – 1 mm) and higher septal density (12/2 mm; data from MCZ 114212, syntype of *Diploria conferticostata* Vaughan, 1899). The material compares well with *Pachygyra ilerdensis*, but the septal density of the latter is much lower (5/2 mm). As there are no polished or thin sections, it cannot be ruled out that the septa of younger generations are only visible in thin sections.

Occurrence. Maastrichtian of Mexico (Chiapas), roadcut north of Ocozocoautla.

Suborder Microsolenina Morycowa and Roniewicz, 1995

Family Leptophylliidae Vaughan, 1905

Genus *Astraeofungia* Alloiteau, 1952

***Astraeofungia felixi* (Reyer-Navarro, 1963)**

v *Thamnasteria felixi* Reyeros-Navarro, 1963, p. 6, pl. 2, fig. 1, 3, 4.

v *Brachyseris morchella* Reuss. Reyeros de Castillo, 1983 p. 22, pl. 9, fig. 2, 3.

v *Synastrea* sp. cf. *S. agaricites* Goldfuss. Filkorn *et al.*, 2005 p. 125, fig. 2l.

Material. IGM 8443.

Discussion. It was not possible to collect any new material of this species. The specimen in Filkorn *et al.* (2005) is comparable with *A. felixi* in the distance of calices and the number of septa. No thin sections are known of the holotype of *Astraeofungia felixi*; the thin section illustrated in Reyeros-Navarro (1963: pl. 2, fig. 4) is part of a paratype. The material cannot be representative of *Synastrea* Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848b as the septa of this genus are much thicker and less perforated.

Occurrence. Aptian of Mexico (Puebla), San Juan Raya. Campanian to Maastrichtian of Mexico (Oaxaca), San Pedro Yucunama. Maastrichtian of Mexico (Chiapas), roadcut north of Ocozocoautla.

Family Microsolenidae Duncan, 1884

Genus *Microsolena* Lamouroux, 1821

?*Microsolena* sp.

Figures 4f-4j, 6f

v *Mesomorpha catadupensis* Vaughan. Filkorn *et al.*, 2005, p. 124, fig. 2j

Dimensions. See Table 8.

Description. Encrusting or massive thamnasterioid colony. Calicular centres slightly depressed. Septa regularly perforated. Microstructure of large trabeculae. Septa in cross section of equal thickness throughout. No septal symmetry.

Table 7. *Pachygyra cf. ilerdensis* (Reig Oriol, 1989).

(7025)	n	min-max	μ	s	cv	$\mu \pm s$
crw	20	0.97-1.28	1.12	0.08	7.2	1.04-1.20
crd	20	2.03-3.24	2.71	0.35	13.0	2.35-3.06
sd	8/2 mm					

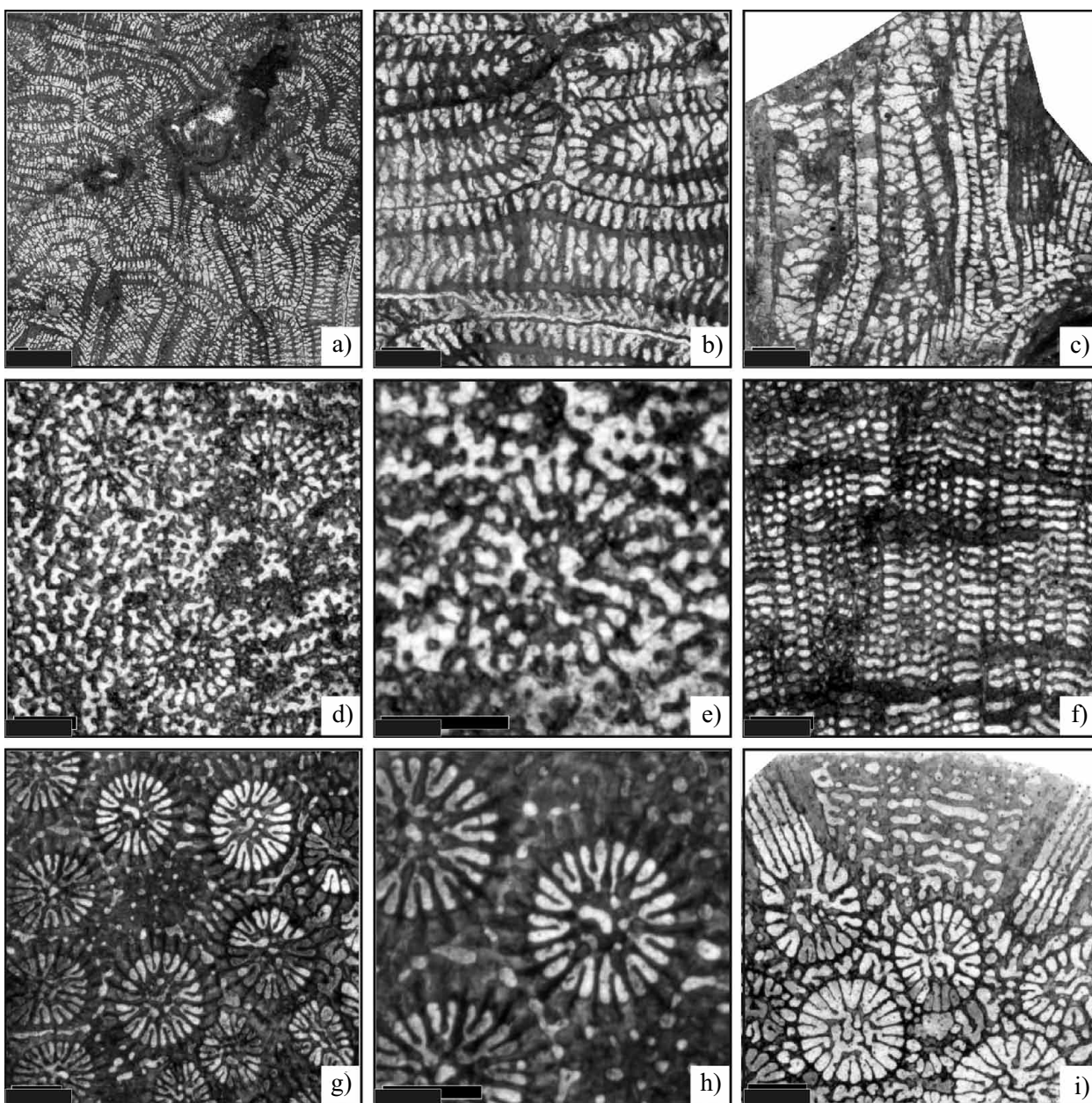


Figure 5. a) *Pachygyra* cf. *ilderensis* (Reig Oriol, 1989), ERNO L-7025, transversal thin section. b) transversal thin section, detail. c) longitudinal thin section. d) *Actinacis magna* Alloiteau, 1958, ERNO L-7023, transversal thin section. e) transversal thin section, detail. f) longitudinal thin section. g) *Multicolumnastraea cyathiformis* (Duncan and Wall, 1865), ERNO L-7002, transversal thin section. h) transversal thin section, detail. i) ERNO L-7020, oblique thin section. Scale 1 mm.

Half of all septa reach up to the calicular centre. Septa free, upper border with large regular granules. Septal lateral face with pennulae, inner margin smooth. Pali or paliiform lobes absent. Costae present, confluent. Synapticulae present, abundant. Columella poorly defined, probably one granule. Endotheca absent. Wall absent. Coenosteum poorly defined because of the type of calicular arrangement. Coenosteum consisting of costae. Budding intracalicular, completely polystomedal.

Material. ERNO L-7007, L-7021, L-7022, L-7023, L-7036, L-7045, IGM 8441.

Discussion. The material described by Vaughan (1899) as *Mesomorpha catadupensis* does not belong to *Mesomorpha* Pratz, 1882-83 but to *Synastrea*. *Mesomorpha* is a conceptual genus (the type of the type species is lost) and is generally considered to be a thamnasterioid coral with very small, widely spaced calices; a few non-pennular compact septa and a styliiform columella, while *Synastrea* has large calices and strong pennulae-bearing septa which are only perforated at the inner margin.

The sample depicted by Filkorn *et al.* (2005) and additional material cannot be identified with *Synastrea*

Table 8. Dimensions of ?*Microsolena* sp.

(7045)	n	min-max	μ	s	cv	$\mu \pm s$
crd	10	3.46-5.48	4.44	0.61	13.7	3.82-5.04
s	30-60					

catadupensis. Like *Synastrea* it is a thamnasterioid coral with large calices but its septa are greatly perforated. For the moment it may be considered a Late Cretaceous variety of *Microsolena*, although it differs from it by its broad interseptal spaces and lower septal density. In most cases the newly collected material consists of initial stages of colonies. Only a few larger colonies were found.

Occurrence. Maastrichtian of Mexico (Chiapas), roadcut north of Ocozocoautla.

Suborder Poritina Veron, 1995

Discussion. The suborder was established without diagnosis, but is nevertheless, valid. Here, the families Actinacididae and Poritidae are included in this suborder. Their former position, the suborder Fungiina, was preliminary. The Fungiina gather various families of which some do not correspond to the name giving genus *Fungia* and a stepwise classification of these families into other suborders is recommendable (see also Morycowa and Roniewicz, 1995).

Family Actinacididae Vaughan and Wells, 1943
Genus *Actinacis* d'Orbigny, 1849

Actinacis magna Alloiteau, 1958
Figure 5d-5f

*v *Actinacis magna* Alloiteau, 1958, p. 179, fig. 26, pl. 16, fig. 3, 4, pl. 18, fig. 6.

Dimensions. See Table 9.

Description. Thick-branching plocoid colony. Calicular outline circular. Calicular pit not depressed. Septa irregularly perforated. Septa in cross section slightly thicker on outside, getting thinner towards the centre. Bilateral symmetry of septa. Cycles of septa subregular. Septal cycles differ in length, hardly in thickness. First septal cycle reaches up to the centre of the calice, following cycles are shorter. Septa of younger cycles are often and regularly con-

Table 9. Dimension of *Actinacis magna* Alloiteau, 1958.

(7023)	n	min-max	μ	s	cv	$\mu \pm s$
c	20	1.47-1.9	1.62	0.13	8.0	1.48-1.74
ccd	20	2.6-4.23	3.24	0.49	15.0	2.74-3.72
s	24					

nected to septa of older ones, upper border not preserved. Septal lateral faces with few thorns, inner margins smooth. Irregular presence of paliform lobes on first cycle. Most septa of first cycle attached to columella. Costae present, of varying length, generally short, non-confluent, surface not preserved. Synapticulae present. Columella lamellar. Endotheca consisting of numerous tabulae of regular thickness. Wall subcompact, septothecal, with synapticulae. Coenosteum broad, consisting of isolated trabeculae and tabulae. Budding extracalicular.

Material. ERNO L-7023, L-7029.

Occurrence. Coniacian of Madagascar, Pointe d'Antonibe, Ankotrofotsy. Maastrichtian of Mexico (Chiapas), roadcut north of Ocozocoautla.

Genus *Multicolumnastra* Vaughan, 1899

Discussion. *Multicolumnastra* was assigned to the Agatheliidae Beauvais and Beauvais, 1975 by Filkorn *et al.* (2005) and Baron-Szabo *et al.* (2006), but differs from this family in many characteristics. Its septal faces are almost completely smooth (while those of Agatheliidae have numerous thorns), the columella is styliiform (absent or weak in Agatheliidae) and the wall is thin and septoparathecal (thick and trabecular in Agatheliidae). Isolated trabeculae in the coenosteum are the only similarity. They are much smaller and finer in Agatheliidae than they are in *Multicolumnastra*. The genus is very similar to *Actinacis*. *Actinacis* itself is ill defined. Its type species is hardly known. All illustrations are from places other than the type locality. Thin sections of the type are poorly preserved. More material from the type locality of the type species of both *Actinacis* and *Multicolumnastra* has to be studied to understand the differences between the genera.

Multicolumnastra cyathiformis (Duncan and Wall, 1865) Figures. 5g-5i

*v *Heliastrea cyathiformis* Duncan and Wall, 1865, p. 8, pl. 1, fig. 1.

Multicolumnastra cyathiformis Duncan. Vaughan, 1899, p. 236, pl. 37, fig. 5-7, pl. 38, fig. 1; v Filkorn *et al.*, 2005, p. 118, fig. 2b .

v non *Multicolumnastra cyathiformis* Duncan. Baron-Szabo, 1998, p. 131, pl. 6, fig. 4 [= *Neocoenia renzi*] non *Multicolumnastra cyathiformis* Duncan. Baron-Szabo, 2003 p. 119, pl. 3, fig. 7 [= ? *Hydnophoropsis* sp.].

v non *Multicolumnastra cyathiformis* Duncan. Baron-Szabo *et al.*, 2006, p. 1037, fig. 4.3 [= *Placocolumastrea* sp.].

Dimensions. See Table 10.

Description. Massive plocoid colony. Calicular outline circular. Calicular centres slightly depressed, margins slightly elevated. Septa compact. Septa in cross section slightly

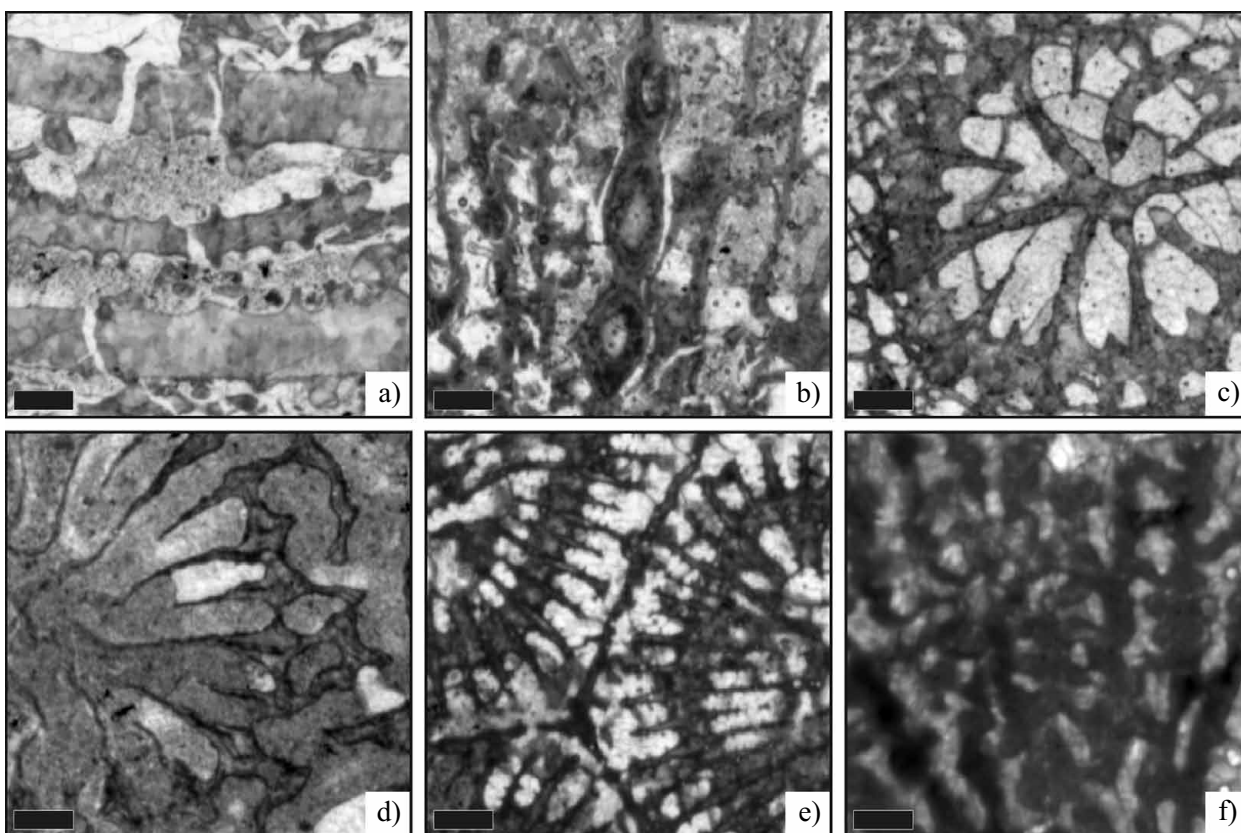


Figure 6. Microstructural details of selected species in transverse thin sections. a) *Filkornia parasolitaria* n. gen. n. sp., ERNO L-7043, holotype. b) *Fungiidae* indet., IGM 9281. Scale 0.5 mm. c) *Favioseris anomalos* Wells, 1934, ERNO L-7013. d) *Favioseris* sp., ERNO L-7016. e) *Pachygyra* cf. *ilerdensis* (Reig Oriol, 1989), ERNO L-7025. f) *Microsolena* sp., ERNO L-7045.

thicker on outside, then of equal thickness. Symmetry of septa radial and regularly hexamer. Cycles of septa regular. Three cycles. Septal cycles differ in length and thickness. First septal cycle reaches 35 % of calicular diameter, following cycles shorter. Septa free, upper border

Table 10. Dimensions of *Multicolumnastraea cyathiformis* (Duncan and Wall, 1865)

	n	min-max	μ	s	cv	$\mu \pm s$
(7000)						
cl	15	1.5-1.89	1.66	0.11	6.5	1.55-1.77
c	15	1.76-2.31	2.05	0.19	9.3	1.85-2.24
ccd	15	1.86-3.96	2.75	0.63	22.9	2.11-3.37
s	24					
(7002)						
cl	20	1.31-1.93	1.59	0.16	9.7	1.43-1.74
c	20	1.57-2.52	2.03	0.22	10.8	1.80-2.24
ccd	20	1.74-2.67	2.18	0.31	14.3	1.86-2.48
s	24					
(7006)						
cl	20	1.56-2.16	1.84	0.16	8.7	1.67-1.99
c	20	1.98-2.85	2.35	0.19	8.1	2.15-2.53
ccd	20	2.1-3.65	2.82	0.41	14.4	2.41-3.22
s	24					

smooth. Septal lateral face with some small thorns, inner margin smooth. Pali present on two septal cycles. Septa only rarely attached to columella. Costae present, of varying length, generally short, non-confluent, surface with large granules. Synapticulae present, mainly in the coenosteum. Columella small, substyliiform. Endotheca consisting of regular thick tabulae. Wall generally compact, septoparathecal. Coenosteum broad, consisting of isolated trabeculae and tabulae. Budding extracalicular.

Material. ERNO L-7000, L-7002, L-7006, L-7020, L-7030, L-7037, L-7038, L-7039, IGM 8433.

Discussion. The material depicted by Baron-Szabo (1998), Baron-Szabo (2003), and Baron-Szabo *et al.* (2006) differs from *Multicolumnastraea cyathiformis* by having no pali and a complete different coenosteum.

Occurrence. Maastrichtian of Mexico (Chiapas), roadcut north of Ocozocoautla. Late Maastrichtian of Jamaica (Clarendon) Mount Hindmost; Trout Hall. Late Maastrichtian of Jamaica (St. James) Catadupa.

Multicolumnastraea sp.

Figure 4k-4l

Dimensions. See Table 11.

Description. Massive plocoid colony. Calicular outline

Table 11. *Multicolumnastraea* sp.

(7003)	n	min-max	μ	s	cv	μ±s
cl	20	1.13-1.45	1.27	0.09	7.1	1.17-1.35
c	20	1.36-1.65	1.56	0.09	5.8	1.46-1.65
ccd	20	1.73-2.77	2.24	0.32	14.0	1.92-2.55
s	24					

circular. Calicular centres slightly depressed, margins slightly elevated. Septa compact. Septa in cross section slightly thicker on outside, then of equal thickness. Symmetry of septa radial and regularly hexamer. Cycles of septa regular. Three cycles. Septal cycles differ in length and thickness. First septal cycle reaches 35 % of calicular diameter, other cycles shorter. Septa connected with each other in places, upper border smooth. Septal lateral face with some small thorns, inner margin smooth. Pali present on two septal cycles. Septa rarely attached to columella. Costae present, of varying length, generally short, non-confluent, surface with large granules. Synapticulae present, mainly in the coenosteum. Columella small, substyliform. Endotheca unknown. Wall generally compact, septoparathecal. Coenosteum broad, consisting of isolated trabeculae and tabulae. Budding extracalicular.

Material. ERNO L-7003.

Discussion. The only sample we have is too small to prepare a longitudinal thin section. It clearly differs from *Multicolumnastraea cyathiformis* on account of its smaller calicular dimensions.

Occurrence. Maastrichtian of Mexico (Chiapas), roadcut north of Ocozocoautla.

DISCUSSION

The fauna is dominated by Late Cretaceous genera. Only *Astraeofungia* has been known since the Late Jurassic, *Columactinastrea* since the Early Cretaceous, *Actinacis* since the Late Albian and *Pachygyra* since the Cenomanian. One genus (*Actinastrea*) appeared after the Cenomanian/Turonian boundary, but the remaining genera are restricted to the Maastrichtian and are not known in older sediments. This includes *Filkornia*, *Multicolumnastraea*, very probably also *Favioseris* (its distribution in the Campanian is questionable), and the material without a generic name, which is assigned here to *Microsolena* and to the Fungiidae.

At family level there are no first occurrences in the Maastrichtian for the fauna studied. The *Felixaraeidae* have been known since the Late Turonian (with *Felixaraea*), the *Pachyphyllidae* (with *Pachyphyllia* Alloiteau, 1957) and Fungiidae (with *Pseudocunolites* Reig Oriol, 1988) since the Santonian. All other families have been known since the Late Jurassic (*Actinastreaeidae*, *Leptophyllidae*, *Microsolenidae*) or late Early Cretaceous (*Actinacidae*, *Phyllosmillidae*). But the Late Cretaceous family nevertheless diversified in the Maastrichtian.

Nine out of the twelve species were found in other localities (Figure 7). With one exception (*Astraeofungia felixi*) these species are only known from the Late Cretaceous, and four are only known from the Maastrichtian. This confirms the special character of Maastrichtian coral faunas. There are Maastrichtian coral faunas (exclusively from the Caribbean, e.g. Jamaica and NE Mexico) which share species with the Ocozocoautla fauna. Faunas from the Western or Central Tethys share a few cosmopolitan genera (*Actinastrea*, *Columactinastrea*, *Astraeofungia*).

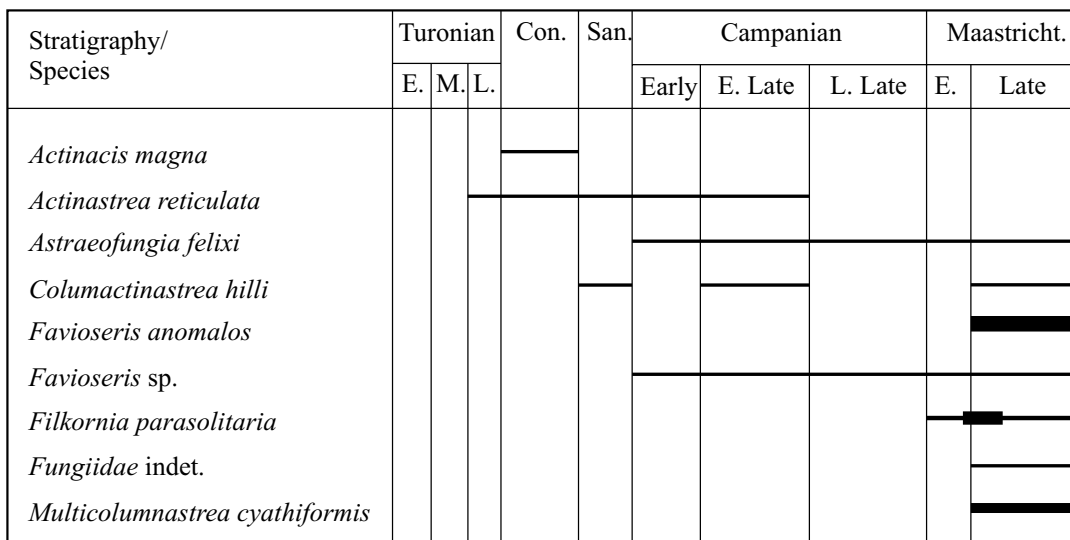


Figure 7. Stratigraphic distribution and commonness of species of the Ocozocoautla fauna. Early and early Late Cretaceous is not shown because there is only one questionable indication in the Aptian of material which was not available for study. The thickness of the bars indicates the number of localities, in which the species concerned was found.

The above-mentioned exclusive Maastrichtian genera are restricted to the Caribbean. The closing of the Tethys and the opening of the Atlantic Ocean caused the flow of the oceanic water masses to change from west-east to north-south. Even in the Maastrichtian corals showed an increasing provincialism, *i.e.* a provincialism that did not just emerge when the isthmus between North and South America was beginning to close (see also Coates, 1973).

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