

NEW DINOFLAGELLATE CYST SPECIES FROM UPPER CRETACEOUS SUBSURFACE DEPOSITS OF WESTERN BELGIUM¹

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(1 figure and 2 plates)

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ABSTRACT. Eight new dinoflagellate cyst species from the Upper Cretaceous (latest Cenomanian - Late Campanian) of western Belgium are described: *Canningia keiemensis* (latest Cenomanian - Santonian), *Eisenackia? knokkensis* (Campanian), *Invertocysta flandriensis* (Turonian - Campanian), *Microdinium minutum* (latest Cenomanian - Santonian), *Microdinium? sinfalensis* (Turonian - Campanian), *Pervosphaeridium elegans* (Campanian), *Rhynchodiniopsis saliorum* (Campanian) and *Senoniasphaera palla* (Turonian).

KEY-WORDS: Dinoflagellate cysts, Upper Cretaceous, western Belgium.

RESUME. Huit nouvelles espèces de cystes de dinoflagellés du Crétacé Supérieur (Cénomanien terminal - Campanien Supérieur) de la Belgique occidentale sont décrites: *Canningia keiemensis* (Cénomanien terminal - Santonien), *Eisenackia? knokkensis* (Campanien), *Invertocysta flandriensis* (Turonien - Campanien), *Microdinium minutum* (Cénomanien terminal - Santonien), *Microdinium? sinfalensis* (Turonien - Campanien), *Pervosphaeridium elegans* (Campanien), *Rhynchodiniopsis saliorum* (Campanien) and *Senoniasphaera palla* (Turonien).

MOTS-CLES: Kystes de dinoflagellés, Crétacé Supérieur, Belgique occidentale.

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper gives the description of eight new dinoflagellate cyst species encountered during a biostratigraphical study of the Upper Cretaceous subsurface deposits from five wells drilled in the western part of Belgium (Fig. 1) on behalf of the Belgian Geological Survey. The Upper Cretaceous deposits formed the subject of several multidisciplinary biostratigraphical studies (Bal & Verbeek, 1990; Louwye, 1990; Nuyts, 1989). A detailed sampling of the cores allowed the recovery of 205 organic-walled microfossil species. The relative dating with dinoflagellate cysts gives a latest Cenomanian - Late Campanian age for the compiled stratigraphical section. We refer to Louwye (1992) for the lithostratigraphical descriptions of the analyzed sections and for a comprehensive overview of the correlations and chronostratigraphical interpretations of the Cretaceous sections intercepted by these wells. A full account of the dinoflagellate cyst associations is gi-

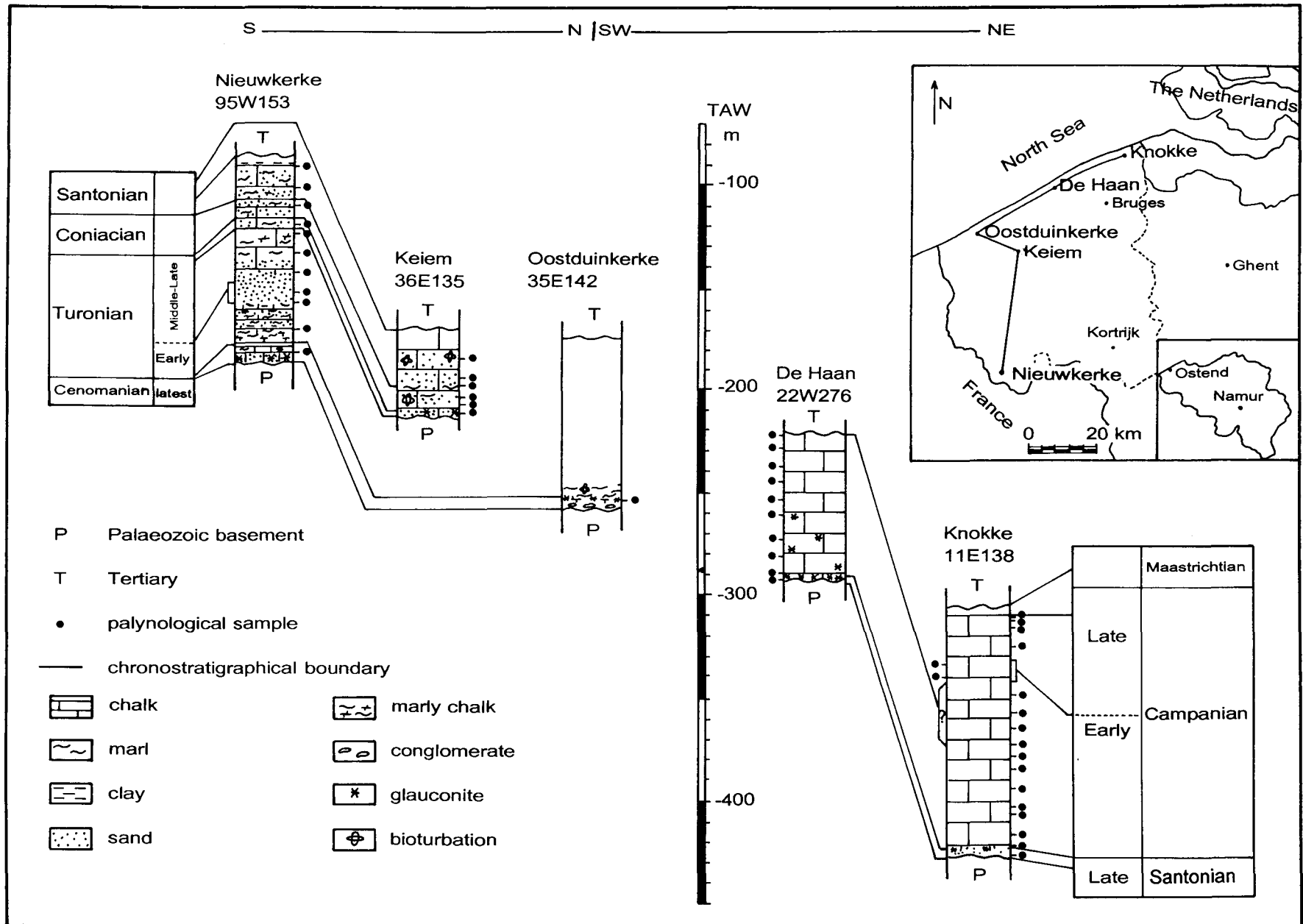
ven in Louwye (1990). The Taylor-Evitt notation for the paratabulation of the cysts is used throughout this paper. The occurrences of the species in the wells refer to depths below T.A.W. (Belgian ordnance datum) and the well reference numbers refer to the archive numbers of the Belgian Geological Survey.

2. SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

Division Pyrrhophyta Pascher, 1914
Class Dinophyceae Fritsch, 1929
Order Peridiniales Haeckel, 1894

Genus *Canningia* Cookson & Eisenack, 1960a;
emend. Dörhöfer & Davies, 1980; emend.
Below, 1981; emend. Helby, 1987.

Type species. *Canningia reticulata* Cookson & Eisenack, 1960a; emend. Below, 1981; emend. Helby, 1987.



Diagnose. Cookson & Eisenack, 1960a, p. 251; Dörhöfer & Davies, 1980, p. 36; Below, 1981, p. 30; Helby, 1987, p. 321.

***Canningia keiemensis* n.sp.**

Pl. 1: 1-6

Derivatio nominis. Keiem, the location of the well.

Holotype. Keiem well 36E135, -211.6 m, P.9, coord. E.F. K-32 (Pl. 1, figs. 1-3, 6), repository: collection of the Laboratory of Paleontology, University of Ghent.

Locus typicus and stratum typicum. Keiem, West Flanders, Belgium, well no. 36E135, -211.6 m, Turonian.

Dimensions. Holotype: total length, 91 μm ; length without operculum, 65 μm ; length of central body without operculum, 57 μm ; total width, 81 μm ; width of central body, 67 μm . Variation: total length: 86-101 μm ; total length without operculum, 54-78 μm ; length of central body without operculum, 54-68 μm ; total width, 64-87 μm ; width of central body, 54-71 μm . Number of measured specimens: 21.

Diagnosis. The proximate cyst is bilayered. The autocyst is mostly subcircular with a small, rounded apical horn. Two lateral protrusions at the paracingulum are developed and occasionally a faint, left antapical horn. The autophragm is relatively thick (approx. 2 μm), scabrate to slightly granular. The cyst is lenticular-like: the ventral surface is, in apical-antapical view, straight while the dorsal surface is convex. Solid, pillar-like protrusions (height max. 6 μm) and irregular septa cover the autophragm dorsally and laterally. Both types of processes occupy an intratabular and penitabular position, are fibrous and flare distally and proximally. They support a scabrate, perforate ectophragm. The unevenly distributed perforations of the ectophragm are circular or subcircular, ranging in diameter from 2 μm to 3 μm . The widest perforations occupy a penitabular position. The ectophragm displays a small but distinct apical horn, two rounded or sometimes slightly indented protrusions at the paracingulum and a left antapical protrusion. The right antapical protrusion is mostly absent or strongly reduced. The separation between the autophragm and ectophragm is more or less constant (about 5 μm), except at the antapex and paracingulum (max. separation 12 μm). The ectophragm is always absent from the ventral surface of the cyst, where occasionally some isolated septa or pillarlike protrusions

occur. Some characteristics of the gonyaulacean paratabulation: 3, 4 and 5 are well developed on the dorsal surface, the position of 2, 6 and 1i can be inferred from the accessory archeopyle parasutures. The paracingulum is undivided and the post-cingular paraplates III, IV and V are visible on the dorsal surface with IV large and trapezoidal. The parasulcal notch is offset. The archeopyle is of type (ta) with a slightly zigzag margin and clearly developed accessory archeopyle parasutures. The operculum is usually free.

Comparison. *Canningia transitoria* Stover & Helby, 1987 (Barremian - Early Aptian) differs by having an ectophragm that covers the cyst completely, a wider ectocoel and a less clearly but completely developed paratabulation. *Canningia bassensis* Marshall, 1990 (Campanian) is holocavate and has an ectophragm that covers the cyst completely although it is frequently discontinuous on the midventral surface. Furthermore, this species is not lenticular-like.

Occurrence. Keiem: -211.6 m, -204.0 m, -196.3 m (Turonian - Santonian); Nieuwkerke, -103.0 m (Santonian); Oostduinkerke well, -254.5 m (Cenomanian).

Genus *Eisenackia* Deflandre & Cookson, 1955; emend. Sarjeant, 1966; emend. McLean, 1973.

Type species. *Eisenackia crassitabulata* Deflandre & Cookson, 1955; emend. McLean, 1973.

Diagnosis. Deflandre & Cookson, 1955, p. 258; Sarjeant, 1966, p. 152; McLean 1973, p. 262.

***Eisenackia? knokkensis* n.sp.**

Pl. 1: 7-9

Derivatio nominis. "Knokke": the location of the well.

Holotype. Knokke well 11E138, -420.7 m, P.1, coord. E.F. G-23.4 (Pl. 1, figs. 8-9), repository: collection of the Laboratory of Paleontology, University of Ghent.

Locus typicus and stratum typicum. Knokke, West Flanders, Belgium, well no. 11E138, -420.7 m, Campanian.

Dimensions. Holotype: width, 58 μm ; length (without operculum), 50 μm . Variation: width, 54-63 μm ; length (without operculum), 45-58 μm . Number of measured specimens: 11.

Diagnosis. The proximate, moderately compressed cyst has a subcircular outline in dorsoventral view. A small apical protrusion is sometimes developed while the antapex is rounded. The thin autophragm is ornamented with a low but rather dense and coarse granulation of the intratabular areas. The paratabulation is clearly reflected by the absence of this ornamentation in the parasutural areas. The hypocyst is somewhat larger than the epicyst. The hypocystal arrangement is sexiform gonyaulacoid with an almost symmetrical Y. The contact between Y and VI, and Y and X is reduced. Z has a blocked appearance, is almost square in outline and has a convex contact with Y. Im is larger than li, the latter is poorly delineated and seems sometimes to be bipartite, ai has an elongated shape, while fu is triangular with concave sides. The archeopyle is of type (ta). The free operculum consists of four apical paraplates and has been observed adherent in a few cases only. A deep parasulcal notch is developed.

Comparison. *Eisenackia crassitabulata* Deflandre & Cookson, 1955 (Paleocene - Early Eocene) differs by the ellipsoidal ambitus, the thick wall, the type of ornamentation and the hypocystal quinqueform arrangement. *Stoveracysta ornata* (Cookson & Eisenack, 1965) Clowes, 1985 (Late Eocene) differs by the presence of the two short antapical lobes, the penitabular ledges, the circular ambitus in apical view and the ventral organisation and ornamentation.

Remarks. This species has the essential characteristics (type of ornamentation, shape) of the genus *Eisenackia* but differs by its sexiform hypocystal arrangement; hence the doubtful assignment to this genus.

Occurrence. Knokke: -420.7 m, -414.4 m (Campanian).

Genus *Invertocysta* Edwards, 1984.

Type species. *Invertocysta tabulata* Edwards, 1984. Diagnosis. Edwards, 1984, p. 585.

Invertocysta flandriensis n.sp.

Pl. 1: 10-13

Derivatio nominis. The type locality, Knokke, is situated in Flanders (Vlaanderen).

Holotype. Knokke well 11E138, -347.6 m, P.1, coord. E.F. X-35 (Pl. 1, figs. 10-13), repository: collection of the Laboratory of Paleontology, University of Ghent.

Locus typicus and stratum typicum. Knokke, West Flanders, Belgium, well no. 11E138, -347.6 m, Campanian.

Dimensions. Holotype: length of pericyst, 62 μm ; breadth of pericyst, 62 μm ; diameter of endocyst, 37 μm . Variation: length of pericyst, 56-72 μm ; breadth of pericyst, 55-68 μm ; diameter of endocyst, 34-41 μm . Number of measured specimens: 10.

Diagnosis. The outline of the cavate cyst is hexagonal with rounded angles to subcircular. Both endo- and periphragm are scabrate, the endophragm being slightly thicker than the periphragm. The outline of the endocyst is circular with a small apical boss, giving it a tear-like appearance. A similar small apical boss is sometimes developed on the pericyst. The size of the endocyst is considerably smaller than the pericyst. Both walls are only in contact in the lower ventral region, the endocyst not being centered within the pericyst. The outward extended periphragm forms a well developed dorsal pericoel. Low, smooth parasutural ridges on the pericyst delineate a partial, probably gonyaulacean, paratabulation: four apical paraplates, precingulars 3 to 6 are the most clearly reflected paraplates. It is not clear whether the paracingulum is divided into paraplates. The paracingulum on the dorsal side is antapically displaced. The endoarcheopyle is of type P and formed by the release of paraplate 4. A large subquadratic opening occupies most of the dorsal side and corresponds to paraplate 4. The form and dimensions of the endo- and periarcheopyle are fairly constant.

Comparison. The paratabulation of *Invertocysta tabulata* Edwards, 1984 (Middle-Late Miocene) is completely expressed on the pericyst. Furthermore, the endocyst of the latter species is centered within the pericyst. *I. lacrimosa* Edwards, 1984 (Middle-Late Miocene) differs in that the boss of the endocyst is connected to the inner lip of the bowl-shaped pericyst. It differs furthermore from our species by the wide variation in size, shape, degree of reflection of the paratabulation and the size of the dorsal opening.

Remarks. Due to the fragile nature of the periphragm, *I. flandriensis* is often found distorted in preparations.

Occurrence. Knokke: -405.1 m - -315.1 m (Campanian); De Haan, -229.0 m (Campanian); Keiem, -211.6 m, -204.0 m, -199.6 m (Turonian - Santonian); Nieuwkerke, -91.0 m (Santonian).

Genus *Microdinium* Cookson & Eisenack, 1960b; emend. Sarjeant, 1966; emend. Stover & Evitt, 1978.

Type species. *Microdinium ornatum* Cookson & Eisenack, 1960b.

Diagnosis. Cookson & Eisenack, 1960b, p.6; Sarjeant, 1966, p. 148-149; Stover & Evitt, 1978, p.65-66.

***Microdinium minutum* n.sp.**

Pl. 1: 14-16, Pl. 2: 5

Synonymy.

1974 *Histiocysta palla* Davey 1969 - Foucher, p. 130, pl. 3, figs. 5, 6, Late Turonian, France.

1975 *H. palla* Davey 1969 - Foucher, pl. 1, fig. 2, Turonian, France.

Derivatio nominis. «Minutus», latin: small.

Holotype. Keiem well 36E135, -211.6 m, P.1, coord. E.F. V-41.4 (Pl. 1, figs. 14-16, Pl. 2, fig. 5), repository: collection of the Laboratory of Paleontology, University of Ghent.

Locus typicus and stratum typicum. Keiem, West Flanders, Belgium, well no. 36E135, -211.6 m, Turonian (Coniacian?).

Dimensions. Holotype: total length, 31 μm ; total width, 27 μm . Variation: total length, 28 - 36 μm ; total width, 22-31 μm . Number of measured specimens: 12.

Diagnosis. The small, proximate and suturocavate cyst has an ellipsoidal silhouette. The cyst is circular in equatorial view. The maximum width is situated near the posterior end of the paracingulum. The endophragm is scabrate while the periphragm is hyaline and in optical section only recognisable as a thin line. The endophragm and periphragm are appressed except in the parasutural areas where discrete, cavate parasutures are developed which reflect the paratabulation. The barely visible parasutural ridges give the impression of unornamented parasutural strips. The sparse, intratabular ornamentation consists of isolated granules and irregular crests. The slightly offset paracingulum divides the cyst in a hypocyst which is roughly twice as large as the epicyst. Paratabulation: 4 apicals, 4 anterior intercalaries, 6 precingulars, 6 paracingulars and 6 postcingulars, X and Y in partiform hypocystal arrangement, the exact arrangement of the parasulcal plates could not be determined. The precingular paraplate 2 is distinctively triangular. The apical archeopyle is of type (tAtl). An adherent operculum was observed in a few cases.

Comparison. *Microdinium granocarinatum* (Below, 1987) Lentin & Williams, 1989 (Late Campanian) differs by the higher parasutural crests and the dense granular, intratabular ornamentation. *M. densigranulatum* (Below, 1987) Lentin & Williams, 1989 (Middle Albian) is acavate and densely ornamented with granules.

Remarks. The cavate parasutures are discrete, giving the impression of unornamented parasutural strokes bordered with penitabular crests.

Occurrence. apart from the Turonian occurrences reported by Foucher (1974 & 1975), the species is encountered at Keiem: -211.6 m (Turonian), at Nieuwkerke, -103.0 m (Santonian) and at Oostduinkerke, -254.5 m (Cenomanian).

***Microdinium? sincfalensis* n.sp.**

Pl. 2: 7-8, 12-14

Derivatio nominis. "Sincfal": medieval geographical name of the well site area.

Holotype. Knokke well 11E138, -385.1 m, P.4, coord. E.F. O-46.4 (Pl. 2, figs. 12-14), repository: collection of the Laboratory of Paleontology, University of Ghent.

Locus typicus and stratum typicum. Knokke, West Flanders, Belgium, well no. 11E138, -385.1 m, Campanian.

Dimensions. Holotype: length of cyst, 40 μm ; width of cyst, 38 μm ; height of processes, max. 6 μm . Variation: length of cyst, 33-44 μm ; width of cyst, 34-41 μm ; height of processes, max. 4-7 μm . Number of measured specimens: 21.

Diagnosis. The small cyst has a subcircular to ovoidal outline. The endophragm is scabrate and forms parasutural crests. The crests are low and distally smooth. The intratabular ornamentation consists of one or two discrete protrusions which sometimes emanate from the centre of the paraplates. The protrusions have never been observed on the paracingular and parasulcal paraplates. These protrusions appear to be solid with a slightly broadened base and they recurve distally. The parasutural crests and the protrusions support a hyaline, thin periphragm. Paratabulation: 4 apicals, no anterior intercalaries, 6 precingulars, 6 paracingulars, 6 postcingulars, parasulcus undivided, X, Y, Z. Lu is strongly reduced. The antapical plate is pentagonal (quinqueform hypocystal arrangement) and the shape of VI is nearly triangular. The relatively small paracingulum divi-

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PLATE 1

New dinoflagellate cysts from Upper Cretaceous subsurface deposits of western Belgium.

1-6, *Canningia keiemensis* n.sp.

1 & 2, holotype, Keiem well 36E135, -211.6 m, P.9, coord. E.F. K-32, total length 91 μm , ventral face, exterior view; 3 & 6, holotype, total width 84 μm , dorsal face, interior view; 4, Keiem well 36E135, -211.6 m, P.9, coord. E.F. E-45.4, total width 67 μm , apical face, archeopyle, exterior view; 5, antapical face, interior view.

7-9, *Eisenackia? knokkensis* n.sp.

7, Knokke well 11E138, -414.4 m, P.8, coord. E.F. N-27, hypocyst, antapical face, exterior view, slightly distorted specimen; 8, holotype, Knokke well 11E138, -420.7 m, P.1, coord. E.F. G-23.4, total width 58 μm , ventral face, exterior view; 9, holotype, dorsal face, interior view.

10-13, *Invertocysta flandriensis* n.sp.

10 & 12, holotype, Knokke well 11E138, -347.6 m, P.1, coord E.F. X-35, length pericyst 62 μm , dorsal face, exterior view; 11, holotype, ventral face, interior view; 13, holotype, optical section.

14-16, *Microdinium minutum* n.sp.

14, holotype Keiem well 36E135, -211.6 m, P.1, coord. E.F. V-41.4, length cyst 31 μm , dorsal face, interior view; 15 & 16, holotype, ventral face, exterior view, slightly differing foci.

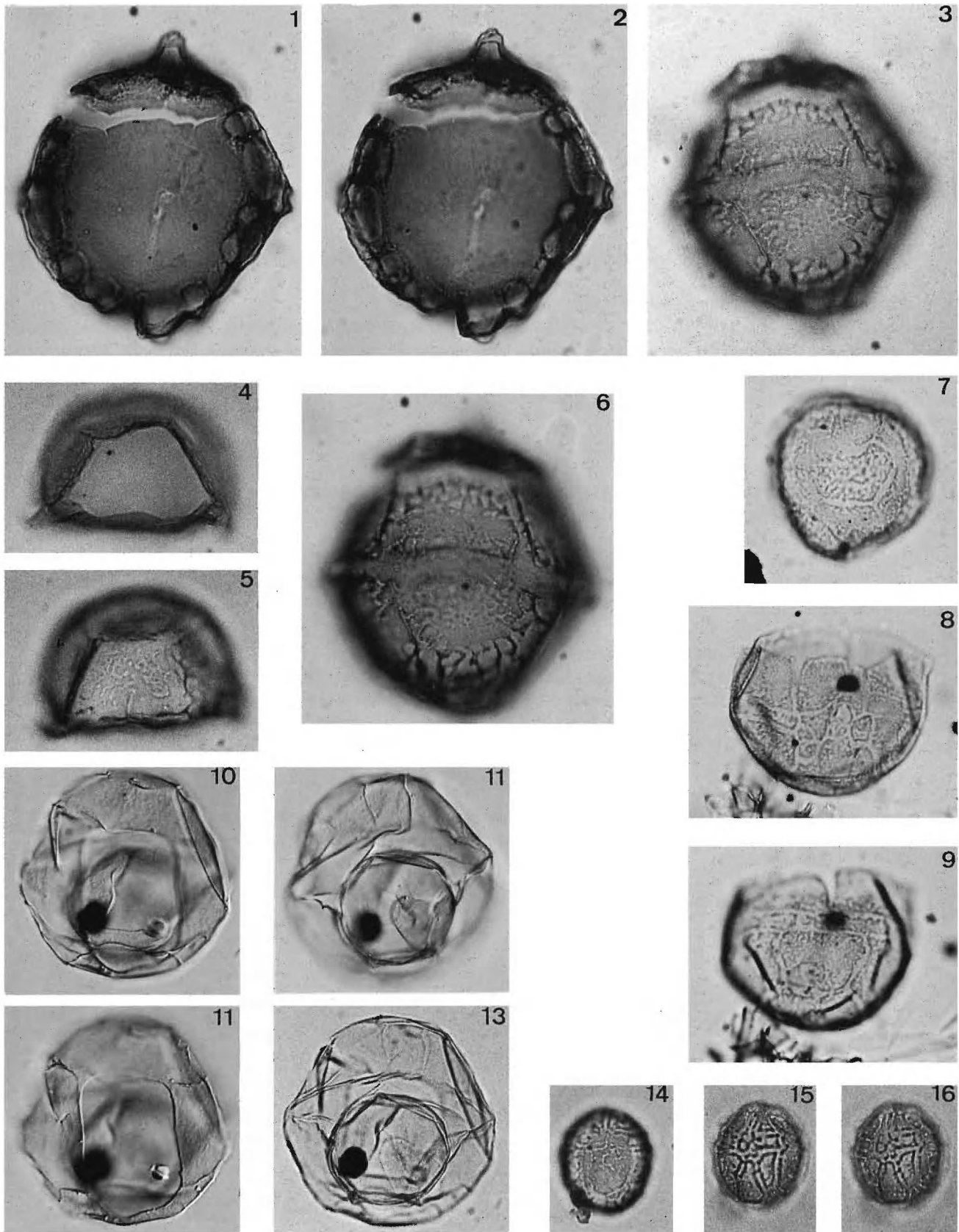


PLATE 2

New dinoflagellate cysts from Upper Cretaceous subsurface deposits of western Belgium.

1, 2, 4 & 9, *Rhynchodiniopsis saliorum* n.sp.

1, holotype, Knokke well 11E138, -377.6 m, P.6, coord. E.F. R-41.3, total length without crests 109 μm , dorsal face, interior view; 2, holotype, ventral face, exterior view, focus on parasutural crests; 4, holotype, total length without crests 109 μm , optical section; 9, Knokke well 11E138, -377.6 m, P.10, coord E.F. Y-28.4, total width without crests 72 μm , epicyst, lateral face, exterior view, distorted specimen, note the absence of the anterior intercalary paraplate.

3 & 6, *Senoniasphaera palla* n.sp.

3, holotype, Nieuwkerke well 95W153, -159 m, P.3, coord E.F. F-23.4, length pericyst 71 μm , ventral face, exterior view; 6, holotype, optical section.

5, *Microdinium minutum* n.sp.

5, holotype, Keiem well 36E135, -211.6 m, P.1, coord. E.F. V-41.4, length cyst 31 μm , ventral face, exterior view, detail of the *parasulcus*.

7-8 & 12-14 *Microdinium? sincafalensis* n.sp.

7, Keiem well 36E135, -211.6 m, P.9, coord. E.F. K-24.3, diameter cyst without crests 34 μm , apical face, exterior view; 8, antapical face, interior view; 12, holotype, Knokke well 11E138, -385.1 m, P.4, coord E.F. Q-46.4, length cyst 40 μm , left lateral face, interior view; 13, holotype, optical section; 14, holotype, right lateral face, exterior view.

10 & 11 *Pervosphaeridium elegans* n.sp.

10, holotype, Knokke well 11E138, -311.8 m, P.4, coord E.F. Q-56.1, diameter central body 44 μm , ventral face, interior view; 11, holotype, diameter central body 44 μm , dorsal face, exterior view.

