

New contribution to knowledge of Sieneze scleractinians

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ABSTRACT

In this new contribution to knowledge of scleractinians from the Pliocene of Siena, some species belonging to genera common in the Pliocene (*Caryophyllia*, *Flabellum*, *Balanophyllia*, *Cladopsammia* and *Dendrophyllia*) are described. One species is attributed, albeit dubiously, to a genus not hitherto reported from the Pliocene of the Mediterranean (*Anomocora*). Some aspects of the variability of other previously described species are also highlighted (*Madracis almerai*, *Bathelia* sp., *Trochocyathus* sp., *Stephanocyathus elegans*, *Desmophyllum* sp., *Cladopsammia* sp. *Enallopsammia* sp.) (Spadini, 2015). The generic nomenclature of a species of the Caryophylliidae remains open.

KEY WORDS

Pliocene; Sieneze; scleractinians; new reports.

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INTRODUCTION

The scleractinian fauna of the Pliocene of Siena was first described by Spadini (2015) and there have been three subsequent additions (Spadini 2016, 2018, 2020). To date, a total of 60 species belonging to 29 genera and 10 families have been reported.

This new contribution describes some species found in the central and southern part of the province of Siena (*Caryophyllia* (*Caryophyllia*) cf. *smithii*, *Anomocora* sp., *Flabellum* cf. *alabastrum*; *Balanophyllia italica*; *Cladopsammia* sp. 1; *Dendrophyllia* cf. *ramea*). Most of the new reports are from deposits of Monte Calcinaio, a rich scleractinian site in the sub-basin of Radicofani. Other species were found in deposits from the Zanclean of Montalcino, from the Piacentian of I Sodi in the Siena sub-basin and from the late Piacentian or early Gelasian of Cava Tempora in the Val di Chiana basin.

Other well-known species reported from the Siena-Radicofani basin (Spadini, 2015) are mentioned briefly in order to specify some characteris-

tics (*Madracis almerai*, *Bathelia* sp., *Stephanocyathus elegans*, *Trochocyathus* sp., *Cladopsammia* sp., *Enallopsammia* sp. etc.). The generic nomenclature of one species, assigned to the Caryophylliidae, remains open.

For the general characteristics of the study area and for Material and Methods see Spadini (2015).

RESULTS

Systematic Palaeontology

Ordo SCLERACTINIA Bourne, 1900

Subordo ASTROCOENIINA Vaughan et Wells, 1943

Familia POCILLOPORIDAE Gray, 1842

Genus *Madracis* Milne Edwards et Haime, 1849

TYPE SPECIES. *Madracis asperula* Milne Edwards et Haime, 1849, by monotypy.

Madracis almerai (De Angelis, 1895) - Figs. 1–3

Madracis almerai. Spadini 2015: 28–29, figs. 6–9

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Monte Calcinaio: three specimens.

REMARKS. The fossil species of the Pliocene of the Mediterranean are believed to be similar to the species currently living in the Mediterranean Sea (Spadini, 2015). *Madracis almerai* shows great intraspecific variation in colony morphology. Some fragments are very small, while others are cylindrical, 5 to 10 mm in diameter and 10 to 20 mm in height. We can suppose that *Madracis almerai* is digitiform or branching.

Madracis almerai is very common in gravel- and pebble-rich facies representing the infralittoral strata of the Monte Calcinaio.

Familia CARYOPHYLLIIDAE Dana, 1846

Subfamilia CARYOPHYLLIINAE Dana, 1846

Genus *Caryophyllia* Lamarck, 1801

TYPE SPECIES. *Madrepora cyathus* Ellis et Solander, 1786, by subsequent designation (Broderip, 1828).

Caryophyllia (*Caryophyllia*) cf. *smithii* Stokes et Broderip, 1828 - Fig. 4

Caryophyllia clavus Scacchi, 1935: 17.

Cyathina turbinata Philippi, 1836: 54, pl. 4, fig. 18; pl. 12, fig. 24.

Cyathina pseudoturbinolia – Milne Edwards & Haime, 1848: 19, pl. 9 fig. 1.

Caryophyllia felsinea var. *gigantea* Montanaro, 1931: 71, pl. 4, fig. 10a, b.

Caryophyllia smithii – Vertino 2003: 157–163, pl. VIII–IX.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Cava Tempora: three specimens.

DESCRIPTION. Corallum regularly conical, 17.2 mm tall with narrow 3.3 mm diameter of base. Theca with costae equal or nearly equal, granular and of variable width.

At the base there are 48 costae, each consisting

of a single row of granules. In the medial zone of the theca the costae consist of several granules paired or expanded horizontally and, near the calice, the costae corresponding to the primary and secondary septa are more developed and raised.

Calice regularly elliptical. Calicular diameter 13.4 x 11.3 mm (d/D ratio = 0.84). Septa of the first two cycles equal or nearly equal, exsert; septa of third cycle less exsert. Septa of fourth cycle about half as long as those of third cycle.

The smaller specimens (D = 8–10 mm) have 48 septa, one specimen with D = 13 mm has 58 septa in 14 systems. The edge of the septa is continuous and straight. Pali of similar length to the corresponding septa ($P_3=S_3$), separated by deep narrow notch. The granulation of the pali is more pronounced than that of the septa and often consists of concave lamellae. Columella elongated, but not entirely preserved in any of the specimens examined.

STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION. *Caryophyllia clavus* is cited from the Miocene of Forchtenau (Reuss 1871), the Tortonian of Montegibbio (Namias, 1892), the Molassa of Baviera (Kühn, 1965), the Pliocene of Spain (De Angelis, 1895), Piemonte and Liguria (Osasco, 1895), Emilia (Simonelli, 1895), Rhodes (Jussen, 1892), Puglia (Scacchi, 1935) and Montanaro (1931) and the Pleistocene of Sicilia and Calabria (Seguenza, 1880; De Stefani, 1955; Sganga, 1978; Vertino, 2003).

REMARKS. The name *Caryophyllia clavus* was given to a fossil from the Plio-Pleistocene of Gravina (Apulia, Italy), the type or topotypical material of which has never been studied in detail. According to Scacchi, *C. clavus* resembled an extant *Caryophyllia* of the Gulf of Naples, that matched *Cyathina turbinata* Philippi, 1836. Despite their resemblance, the correspondence is uncertain. *Cyathina turbinata* is a junior synonym of *Caryophyllia smithii* Stokes et Broderip, 1828, from the Mediterranean Sea and the north-eastern Atlantic Ocean (Zibrowius, 1980; Vertino, 2003).

Michelin (1841) assigned the name *Caryophyllia pseudoturbinolia* to a fossil from Sicily and to another living in the Mediterranean. It is unclear whether the description and the figure refer to the fossil or the living form, but they seem identical to *Cyathina turbinata*.

***Bathelia* sp.**

Bathelia sp. - Spadini, 2016: 219–222.

REMARKS. In the first contribution on the Scleractinian fauna of the Siena area (Spadini, 2015), one species was proposed as an “undetermined Oculinidae”. It was later reported as *Bathelia* sp. (Spadini, 2016) and was subsequently also reported from the Pliocene of Spain (Spadini, 2019).

From a macromorphological point of view, this species can be attributed to *Bathelia* (type species *Bathelia candida* Moseley, 1881 by monotypy), a monotypic genus with a geographical distribution limited to the coasts of South America, by virtue of its colonial form and its crown of pali opposite S₃, according to Wells (1956) and Chevalier (1987), and also according to the determination key proposed by Cairns & Kitahara (2012). However, the calycinal characters of *Bathelia candida* are different from those of the fossil *Bathelia*. These characters bring the Sienese fossil closer to the Caryophylliidae family than to the Oculinidae. Moreover, the systematic position of the fossil findings of Radicofani sub-basin is questioned in a review of the deep sea Quaternary corals of Argentina (Garberoglio et al., 2020).

H. Zibrowius (pers. comm. 4/06/2020) recently suggested that this species could be correlated with the genus *Sclerhelio* (type species *Madrepora hirtella* Pallas, 1766 by monotypy). *Sclerhelio hirtella* (Pallas, 1766) was redescribed by Zibrowius (2007) on samples from Saint Helena (southern Atlantic) and was assigned to the family Caryophylliidae.

Vaughan & Wells (1943) and Wells (1956) only refer to recent *Sclerhelio* colonies from the southern Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific. More recently Chevalier (1962) described *Sclerhelio tauriniensis*, a fossil species from the Miocene of Turin (northern Italy). However, since the latter was described from a small fragment in rather poor condition, it probably does not belong to the genus *Sclerhelio*.

It is hard to make a precise comparison of living specimens of *Sclerhelio* and fossil specimens from the Mediterranean Sea first assigned to *Bathelia*, since the fossil specimens consist of fragments, probably of terminal branches.

The Mediterranean fossil *Bathelia* are characterized by calices with 48 septa and 12 pali opposite

S₃, with elliptical calices >10 mm in diameter. The fragments appear to show sympodial growth. In some cases the branches have dichotomous growth with a calice between them. The theca is finely granular or costate near the calice. The specimens from the Pliocene of Spain are very similar, and may have a circular calice, but always 48 septa and 12 pali.

The extant species *Sclerhelio hirtella* has “calices subcircular to slightly elliptical, shallow, densely filled up with septa, pali, and columella elements, up to 6–7 mm in diameter on thicker branches, smaller on younger, more slender terminal branches” (Zibrowius, 2007). The columella is massive with one palar crown opposite P₂, often very incomplete. The surface is finely granular or costate in *Sclerhelio* and is very similar to that of “*Bathelia*” fossils.

At the moment it can be safely stated that the Mediterranean Pliocene fossil seems more similar to *Sclerhelio* than to *Bathelia*.

Genus *Stephanocyathus* Seguenza, 1864

TYPE SPECIES. *Stephanocyathus elegans* Seguenza, 1864 for subsequent designation (Wells, 1936).

***Stephanocyathus elegans* Seguenza, 1864 - Fig. 5**

TYPE MATERIAL. The Seguenza collection was destroyed during the earthquake of Messina in 1908. A specimen from the “Miocene” of Scoppo (IGF3075E) is preserved in the Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Florence (Spadini, 2015).

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Pian delle Cortine: one specimen.

DESCRIPTION. Corallum circular in shape (diameter of 15 mm), not complete at the edge, with convex base, pedunculate in the centre. Costae corresponding to C₁ and C₂ evident and raised. The others, more or less regular, formed by a succession of granules. Septa in four complete cycles. S₁ and S₂ dominant, S₃ connected to S₂, S₄ rudimentary and not very evident. Possible presence of S₅, but they are not preserved. Columella composed of numerous papillae fused together.

STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION. Seguenza (1864, 1880) reports *S. elegans* and *S. elegans* var. *sub-*

spinosus from the Plio-Pleistocene of Sicily and Calabria (Seguenza, 1864). Simonelli (1895) reports it from the Pliocene of Ponticello di Savena, near Bologna, and describes a new variety: *Stephanocyathus elegans* var. *hemisphaerica* Simonelli, 1895. Placella (1978) reports three species from the Pleistocene clays of Archi (Reggio Calabria): *S. elegans*, *S. zancleus* and *S. variabilis* Seguenza, 1864.

REMARKS. The specimen recovered, incomplete, seems to match the specimen of *S. elegans* Seguenza, 1864 from the “Miocene” of Scoppo, figured by Spadini (2015). Spadini (2015) highlights similarity of the IGF specimen with *S. variabilis* Seguenza, 1864, considered by Vertino (2003) to be a subspecies of *S. elegans*.

Genus *Trochocyathus* Milne Edwards et Haime, 1848

TYPE SPECIES. *Turbinolia mitrata* Goldfuss, 1826 by subsequent designation (Milne Edwards & Haime, 1850). Chevalier (1961) following Alloiteau (1952) indicates *T. plicatus* Michelotti, 1838. as type species.

***Trochocyathus* sp. - Fig. 6**

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Monte Calcinaio: one specimen.

DESCRIPTION. Corallum turbinate, free, not completely preserved. Calice slightly oval (diameter 12.2 mm). Outer surface slightly granular with twelve costae coinciding with S_1 and S_2 , more granular in the upper half of the corallite and cristate near the calice. The costae are separated by a fine groove consisting of a series of microscopic holes.

Septa 48 in number, arranged in four complete cycles. S_1 and S_2 exsert, S_3 slightly exsert, S_4 more exsert than S_3 . S_2 thinner than S_1 , S_3 fused with S_2 deep in the calice. S_4 free and half the length of S_1 . Pali opposite the first three cycles of septa, but main S_1 are separate from the columella and lack the corresponding pali. The pali of the first two cycles, thick and robust, form a crown closer to the columella, while those of the third cycle are thinner and form a crown larger than those of the first two cycles. Septa and pali with granules, disposed apparently without order. Granuli of the first cycle of pali more robust than others.

Columella fascicular, composed of few twisted lamellar elements, arranged along the major axis of the calice.

REMARKS. This specimen shows some affinity with the specimens described as *Trochocyathus affinis* Reuss, 1871 from Siena (Spadini, 2015, fig. 107).

Genus *Anomocora* Studer, 1878

TYPE SPECIES. *Coelosmilia fecunda* Pourtalès, 1871, by monotypy.

DIAGNOSIS. Corallum colonial and recumbent. New corallites, budding extracalicularly from edge zone and detaching from parent corallum, result in corallites with an open or broken base. Paliform lobes sometimes present. Columella trabecular. Endothecal dissepiments present.

REMARKS. *Anomocora* is a genus of recumbent scleractinian belonging to the subfamily Parasmiliinae of the family Caryophylliidae. There are two extant species: *Anomocora fecunda* (Portalès, 1871) widespread in the Atlantic Ocean and *A. carinata* Cairns 1991 of the eastern Pacific (Cairns, Hoeksema & Van der Land, 1999; Cairns, 1979; Zibrowius, 1980).

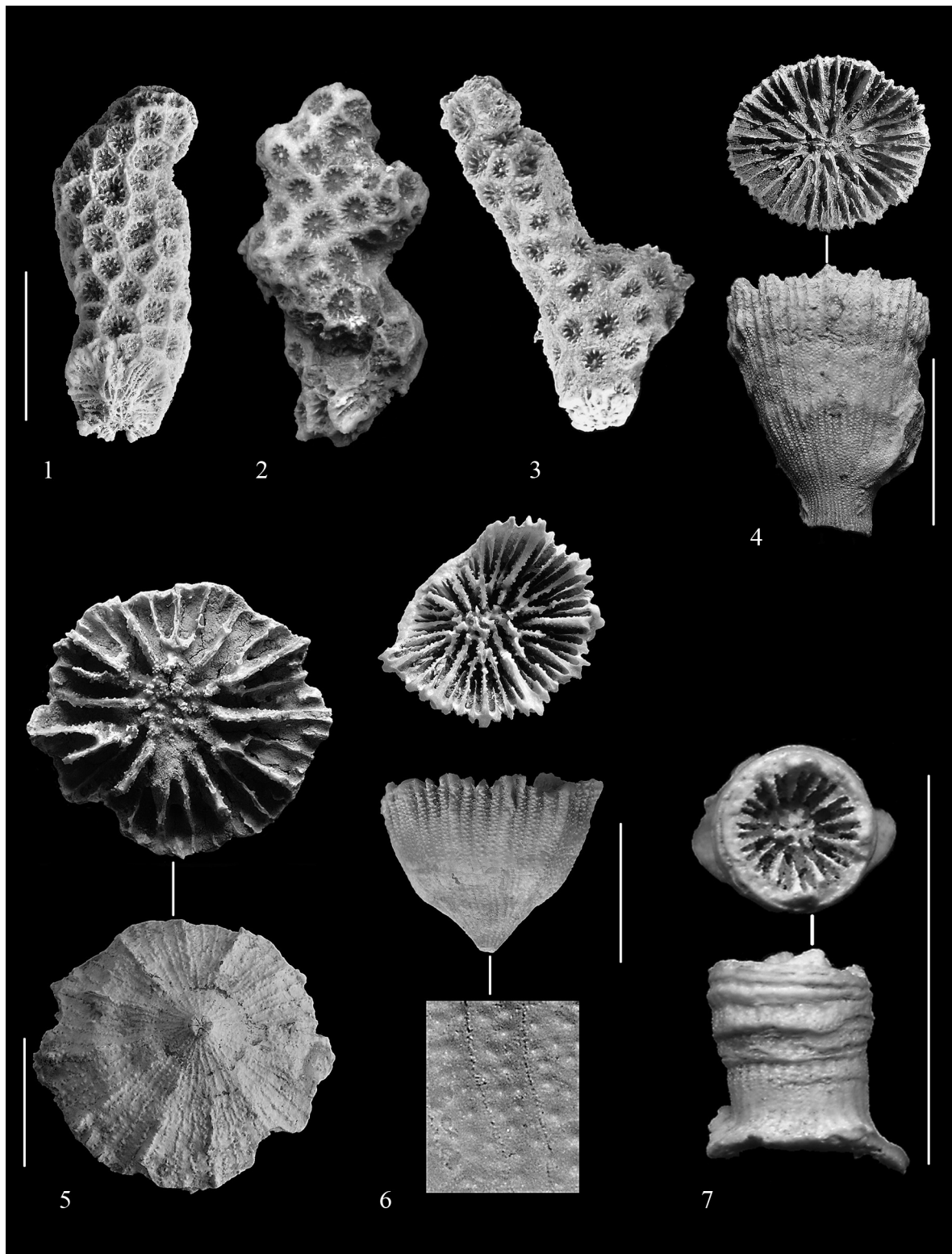
Anomocora is very similar to *Coenosmilia*, but is distinguished by regeneration from the edge-zone with detached second-generation buds, whereas *Coenosmilia* forms bushy colonies. Both are characterized by reduced columella, although *Anomocora* may show paliform lobes (Cairns, 1979, 2000; Zibrowius, 1980).

Zibrowius (1980) considers *Anomocora* a more recent synonym of *Coenosmilia*, whereas Cairns (1979) and Cairns & Kitahara (2012) consider them to be distinct genera.

A fossil species of the genus *Anomocora* is *A. rarogemmans* Chevalier, 1962 from the Middle Miocene of the Collina di Torino (Chevalier, 1962). The species is known from the holotype and two topotypes from Grancia (Collina di Torino), and another corallite from Sciolze (Torino) (Chevalier, 1961), all stored at the MNHN. Zibrowius (1980) considered this attribution of genus to be uncertain.

***Anomocora* sp. - Figs. 8–13**

MATERIAL EXAMINED. 24 specimens with calice.



Figures 1–3. *Madracis almerai* (De Angelis, 1894). Zanclean of Monte Calcinaio. Figure 4. *Caryophyllia* cf. *smithii* Stokes et Broderip, 1828 Piacentian of Cava Tempora. Figure 5. *Stephanocyathus elegans* Seguenza, 1864. Zanclean of Pian delle Cortine. Figure 6. *Trochocyathus* sp. Zanclean of Monte Calcinaio. Fig. 7. Undetermined Caryophylliidae. Zanclean of Monte Calcinaio. Scale bar = 10 mm.

DESCRIPTION. Very small colonies, up to 16.6 mm tall, consisting of a straight corallite, slightly conical, always with an open base, curved distally, also at a right angle. Near the calice there are two or three small incomplete buds, with a maximum diameter of 2 mm. Theca usually with fine granulation, rarely with costae, sometimes more evident distally.

Calice irregularly circular, maximum diameter 2.6 mm, with a fine edge. Fossa very deep. Septa not exsert and not projecting from the edge of the calice, disposed in four incomplete cycles and six systems. Septa very weak and lamellar, short, subequal, numbering 26 to 38. Distal edge of septa smooth. Lateral sides of septa bear many fine even granules, slightly inclined, roughly aligned along growth lines. Paliform lobes absent.

Columella very reduced at bottom of calice. Tabular dissepiments present.

REMARKS. This small species of *Anomocora* from the Pliocene of Monte Calcinaio has dimensions and shape similar to those of *Anomocora rarogemmans* Chevalier, 1961 from the Miocene of the Collina di Torino.

Undetermined CARYOPHYLLIIDAE - Figs. 7, 14–15

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Monte Calcinaio: several specimens.

DESCRIPTION. Cylindrical or tympanoid corallum, solitary, small. The base seems to be polycyclic in some specimens, but in larger ones this character cannot be identified. This may depend on filling of interseptal spaces.

The theca, with granuli or fine costae, is covered by the epitheca, which is especially developed near the calice, forming rings that completely cover the theca, hiding the granulations.

Fossa shallow. Calices circular, septa up to 42 in number, although a large incomplete specimen seems to have 48 septa. The septa and columella are damaged or missing in all specimens.

The two almost complete specimens have 34 septa arranged in four incomplete cycles and six systems. S_1 large, S_2 slightly thinner, reaching the columella deep in the calice. S_3 thin, about half as long as S_1 . S_4 very small. Pali arranged before the first two cycles of septa. Those before S_1 smaller

and radially developed, those before S_2 and S_3 wider, fused together, cylindrical and tuberculate. Columella consisting of few papillae.

REMARKS. This species lived in coarse gravel of the infralittoral zone, and several specimens were found attached to pebbles of various sizes. The specimens resemble *Ceratotrochus* (s.s.) in certain characters of the calice but other differences distinguish them.

Familia FLABELLIDAE Bourne, 1905

Genus *Flabellum* Lesson, 1831

TYPE SPECIES. *Flabellum pavoninum* Lesson, 1831 by monotypy.

Flabellum* cf. *alabastrum Moseley 1873 - Fig. 16

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Pian delle Cortine (one fragment).

DESCRIPTION. A fragment of the calycinal margin of a large specimen (40 mm) showing good correspondence with some representations of *F. alabastrum* (Altuna & Rios, 2014). Calicular margin strongly and regularly cusped due to equally exsert projection of septa S_1 – S_3 . Wall costate, with C_1 – C_3 well developed and C_4 – C_5 inconspicuous.

REMARKS. This fragment was found in association with the previously described specimen of *Stephanocyathus*. Both species are typical of bathyal environments.

Familia DENDROPHYLLIIDAE Gray, 1847

Genus *Balanophyllia* Wood, 1844

TYPE SPECIES. *Balanophyllia calyculus* Wood, 1848, by monotypy.

Balanophyllia* (*Balanophyllia*) *italica Michelin, 1841 - Fig. 18

Caryophyllia italica Michelin, 1841: 46, pl. 9, fig. 15.

Balanophyllia striatissima Sismonda, 1871: 291; pl. 1, fig. 5



Figures 8–13. *Anomocora* sp. Zanclean of Monte Calcinaio (Scale bar = 10 mm).

Balanophyllia italica – Milne Edwards & Haime, 1848: 86.

Balanophyllia italica – Chevalier, 1961: 458–459, texte-fig. 172–174, 176a, 184a.

Balanophyllia (Balanophyllia) italica – Chaix, Cahuzac & Cluzaud, 1999: 50–51, fig. 4.8–9; Fig. 5.5–6

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Quercecchio: one incomplete specimen.

DESCRIPTION. Corallum solitary, subcylindrical, with large base, 22.8 mm tall and calice diameter 11.6 x 14.7 mm.

Costae separated by narrow intercostal furrows and bear strong unequal granules, finely toothed, arranged in a row, except at the base, where they are sometimes covered by a thin layer of epitheca. Calice elliptical, not well preserved.

Septa arranged in five cycles according to the Pourtalès plan. Lateral faces of septa with many fine pointed granules. Pores present in axial and peripheral part of S₄, S₅ and S₆. Columella elongated but not preserved. Rare endothecal dissepiments.

REMARKS. A very similar but much larger species of *Balanophyllia* (up to about 10 cm in height) is reported as *B. gigantea* Osasco, 1895 from the sub-basin of Siena by Spadini (2015).

Genus *Cladopsammia* Lacaze-Duthiers, 1897

TYPE SPECIES. *Cladopsammia rolandi* Lacaze-Duthiers, 1897, by monotypy.

Cladopsammia sp. 1 - Figs. 19–21

Cladopsammia sp. – Spadini, 2015: 121–122, fig. 162.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Monte Calcinaio: one colony already described in Spadini (2015), other smaller colonies and numerous isolated corallites.

REMARKS. Several colonies of small size and irregular shape have been found. These colonies are generally compact, with corallites always fractured (maximum diameter 8 mm), extending in all directions. Septa arranged in four cycles, according to a well-developed Pourtalès plan; pali absent and columella small and papillose. The corallites are covered by a thick epitheca.

Some isolated corallites have lateral buds in various stages or degrees of complexity. It is believed that these colonies originate from single corallites by budding.

?*Cladopsammia* sp. 2 - Figs. 22–24

Balanophyllia (?) sp. – Spadini, 2015: 119–120, fig. 161.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Monte Calcinaio: several specimens.

DESCRIPTION. Isolated, straight or curved coralla, maximum 9.3 mm tall, covered by a smooth epitheca, with the buds originating from the largest corallites completely covered by a thick epitheca. Regularly rounded calice 5.5 mm in maximum diameter, septa in four very irregular incomplete cycles according to the Pourtalès plan. Hemispherical columella, spongy, rather prominent.

REMARKS. This species is characterized by small corallite size and by a regularly smooth epitheca that completely covers corallites, costae and pores. It differs from the previous species by virtue of its regular epitheca, many buds usually arranged along the main corallite, its evident hemispherical columella and smaller dimensions.

A corallite of this species, with no lateral buds, is illustrated in Spadini (2015) as *Balanophyllia* (?) sp.

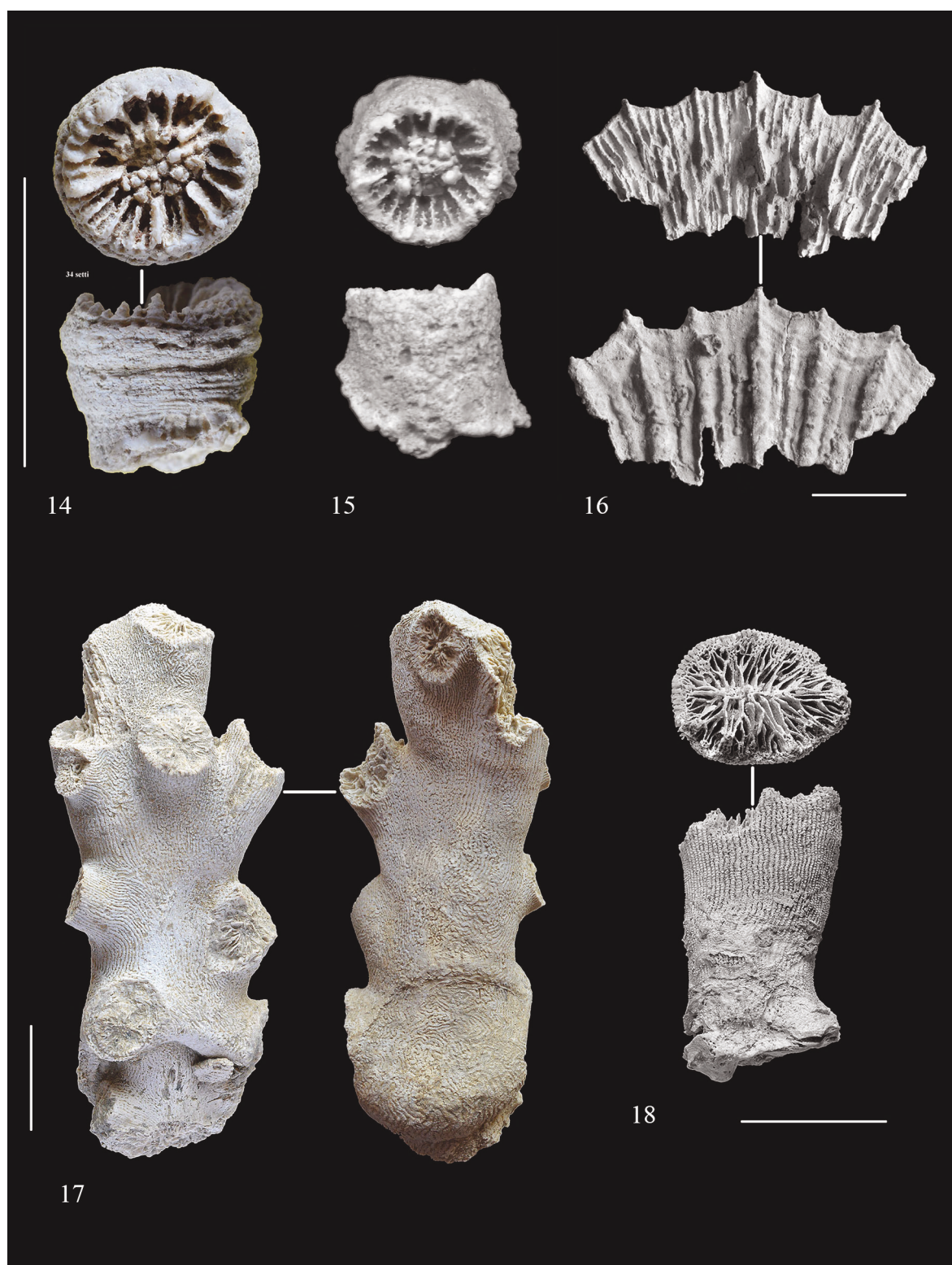
Genus *Dendrophyllia* Blainville, 1830

TYPE SPECIES. *Madrepora ramea* Linnaeus, 1758, by subsequent designation (Milne Edwards & Haime, 1850).

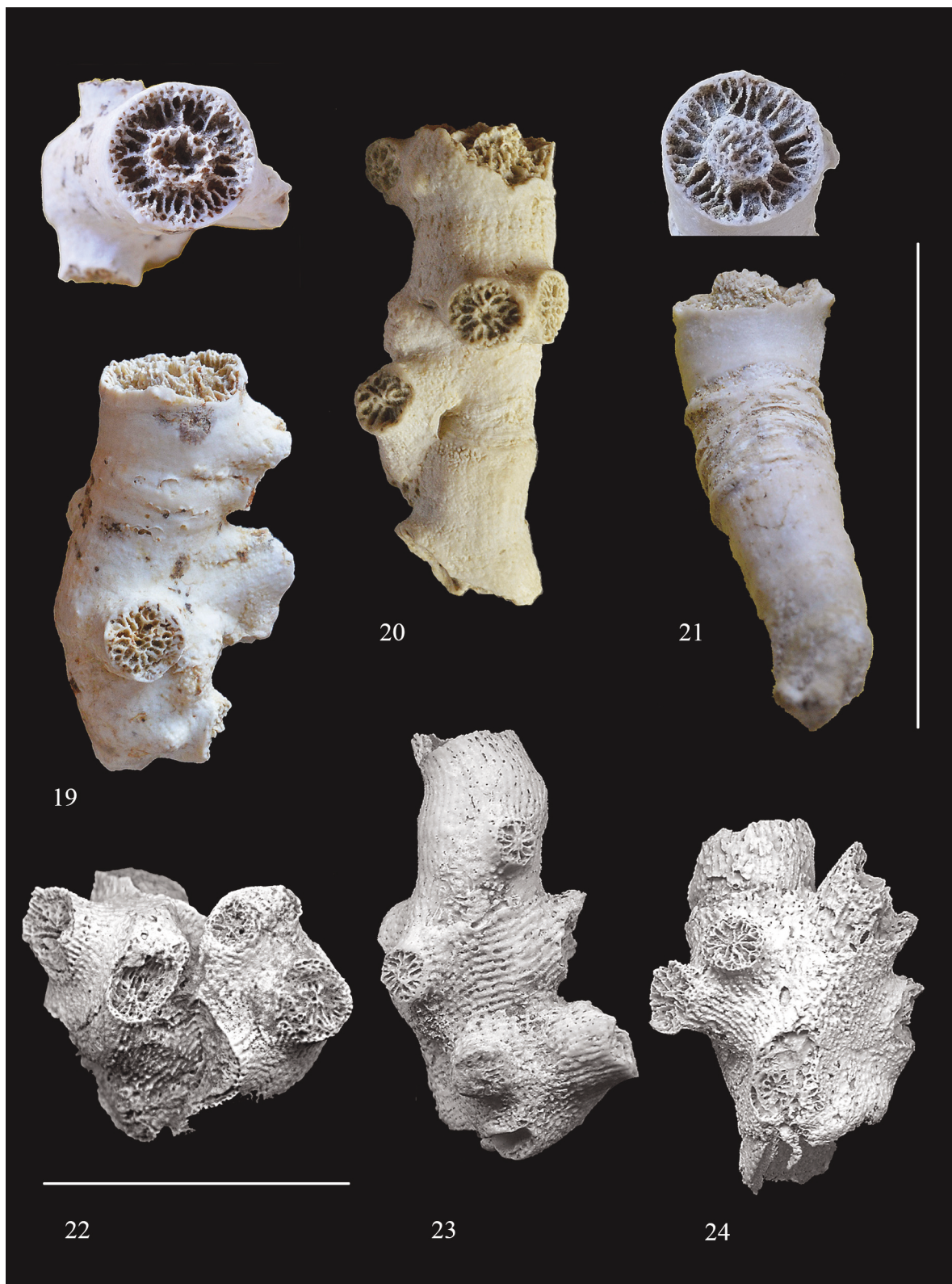
Dendrophyllia cf. *ramea* Linnaeus, 1758 - Fig. 17

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Monte Calcinaio: one colony.

DESCRIPTION. Corallum cylindrical, 68 mm tall, with maximum diameter 19.2 mm, consisting of a central branch, slightly compressed, with two series of lateral calices, slightly prominent, partially preserved, the arrangement of which is not very regular. The corallite was probably bifurcate, but the state of conservation of the colony leaves a margin of uncertainty. The costae are straight or flexuous,



Figures 14–15. Undetermined Caryophyllidae. Zanclean of Monte Calcinaio. Figure 16. *Flabellum* cf. *alabastrum* Moseley, 1873. Zanclean of Pian delle Cortine. Figure 17. *Dendrophyllia* cf. *ramea* Linnaeus, 1758. Zanclean of Monte Calcinaio. Figure 18. *Balanophyllia italica* Michelin, 1841. Zanclean of Quercecchio. Scale bar = 10 mm.



Figures 19–21. *Cladopsammia* sp. 1. Zanclean of Monte Calcinaio. (Scale bar = 10 mm).
 Figures 22–24. *Cladopsammia* sp. 2. Zanclean of Monte Calcinaio. (Scale bar = 10 mm).

vermiculate with evident granulation, more evident and regular in lateral calices.

The septa are arranged in five incomplete cycles and number 60–70, but calices are never completely preserved. The characters of the columella could not be determined.

REMARKS. The colony is very incomplete and not all its characters can be fully determined. However, the two series of corallites appear to be compatible with *D. ramea*.

STRATIGRAPHIC OCCURRENCE. *Dendrophyllia ramea* has been reported from the Chattian and the Miocene of Aquitaine (Cahuzac & Chaix). Michelin (1841) and Osasco (1895) report *D. ramea* from the Pliocene of Torrita di Siena and from the Piacentian of Zinola, respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

Sixty-six species of fossil scleractinians, belonging to 10 families and 30 genera, have so far been reported from the Pliocene of Siena (Siena, Radicofani and Valdichiana basins) (Spadini, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2020 and this paper). The best represented family is the Caryophylliidae with 15 genera and 32 species, one not assigned to any genus, followed by the Dendrophylliidae with five genera and 14 species and the Flabellidae with two genera and 11 species. The families Micrabaciidae, Faviidae and Rhizangiidae are represented by two species, and the Pocilloporidae, Siderastraeidae, Oculinidae and Stenocyathidae by only one species.

The present study reports five species new for this area (*Caryophyllia* cf. *smithii*, *Anomocora* sp., *Flabellum* cf. *alabastrum*, *Balanophyllia italica*, *Dendrophyllia* cf. *ramea*), other specimens not determined at species level (*Trochocyathus* sp., *Cladopsammia* sp.2), which will have to be confirmed by further research, and one species assigned to an undetermined genus of the Caryophylliidae.

This study also specifies some aspects of the morphology of *Madracis almerai*, *Desmophyllum dianthus* and *Cladopsammia* sp.1, common from the Pliocene of Monte Calcinaio. In addition, some aspects regarding the affinity of species first classified as *Bathelia*, now considered more similar to *Sclerhelia*, are specified.

The genus *Anomocora* is a new report from the

Pliocene of the Mediterranean. It is added to the list of various genera reported only from the Pliocene of Siena, in particular the Monte Calcinaio (Spadini, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2020). However, careful research has documented the presence of some of these genera in other sites, for example *Bathelia* and *Pourtalesmilia* have also been recovered from the Pliocene of Spain (Spadini, 2019) and *Dasmosmilia* from the Pliocene of Romagna (Spadini et al., 2020).

Further research will make it possible to widen the range of distribution of these genera and also to document their presence in other Mediterranean deposits.

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