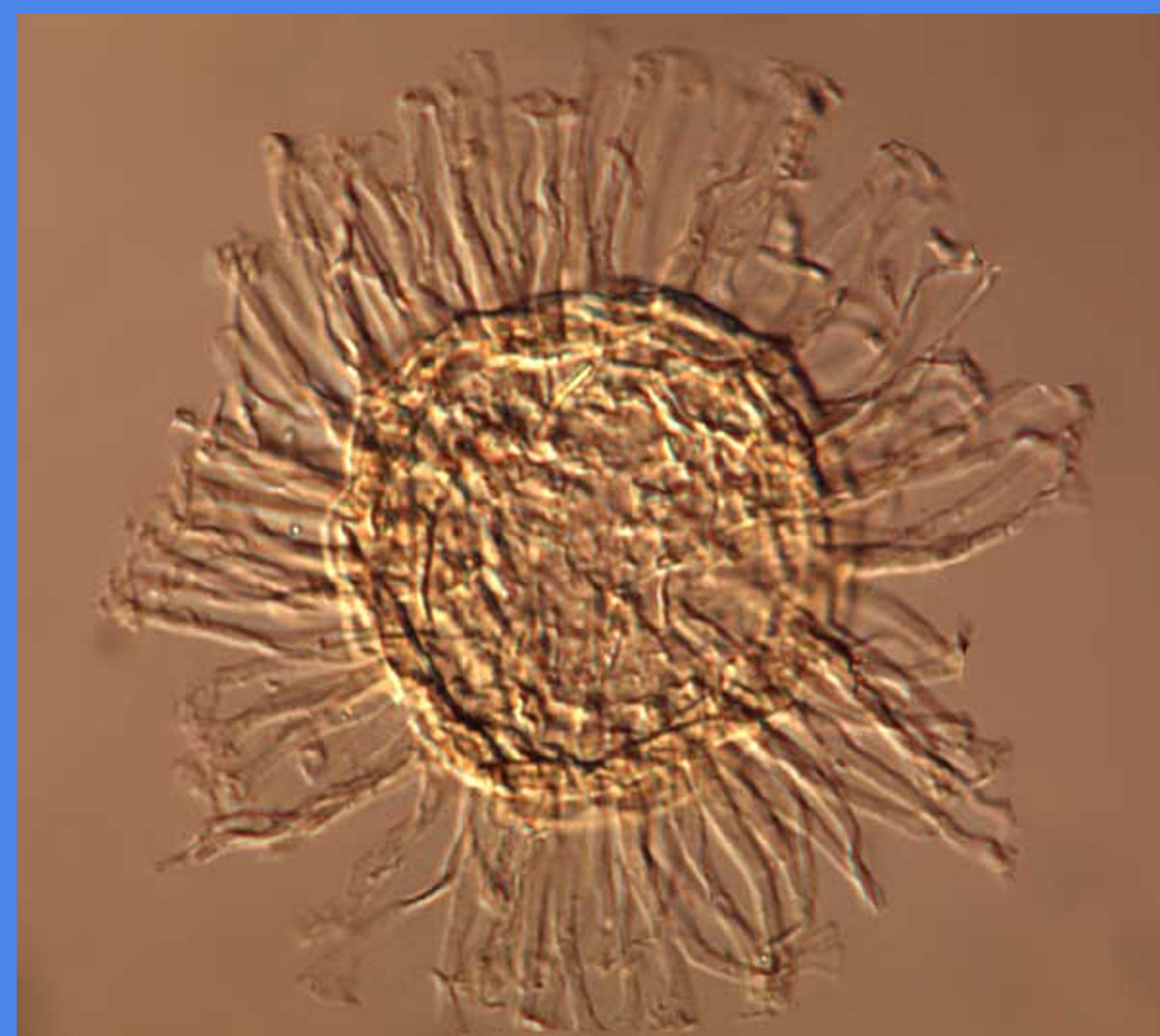
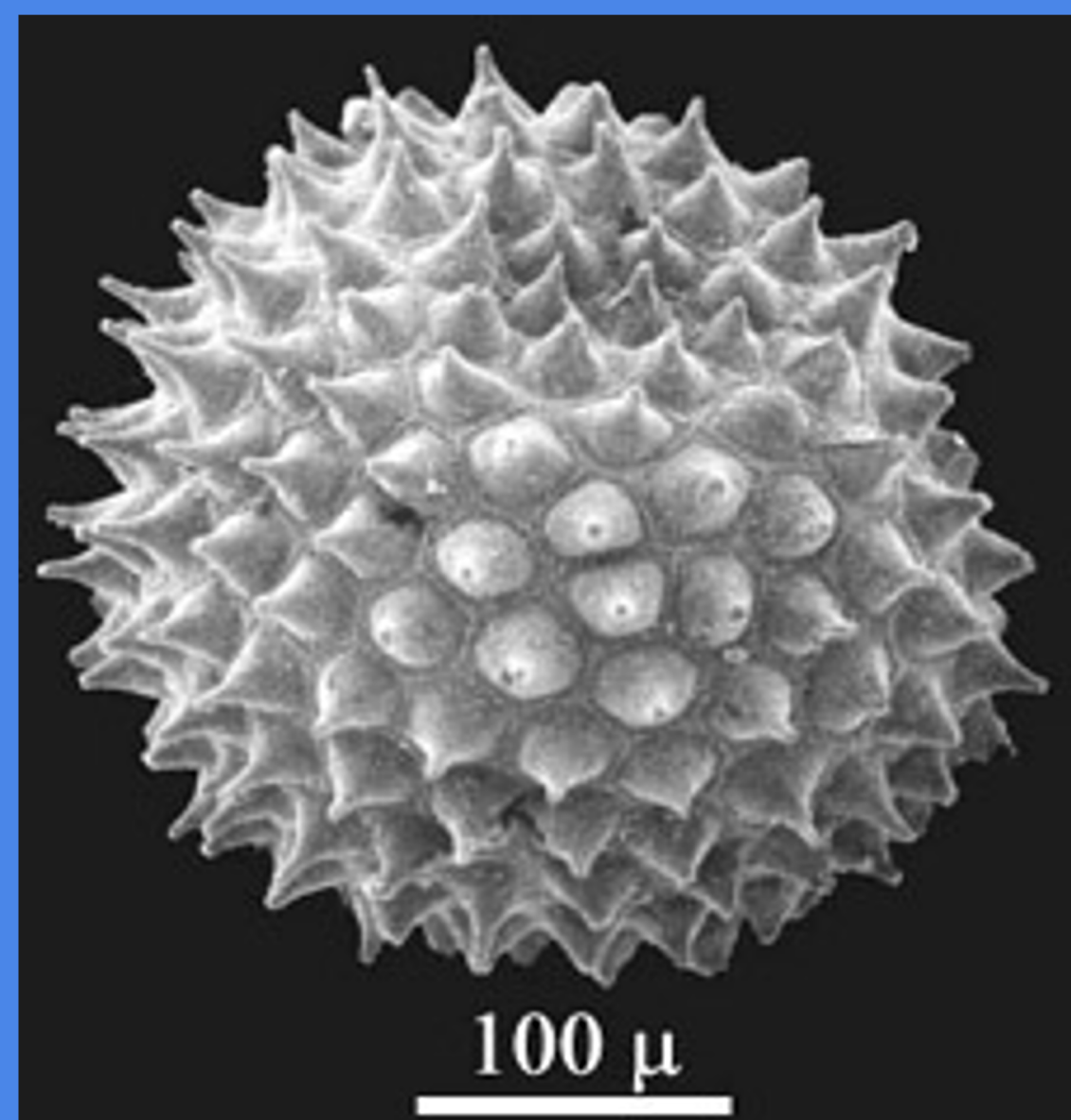


Acritarchs (Taxon, Precambrian)

GEOL 204 The Fossil Record

Spring 2020 Section 0105

Gari Feria, Carmel Gonen, & Henry Heemskerck



1. Acritarchs are a successful, long-living and important microfossil. They resemble capsules and are present within the rock record dating back billions of years. Because of their longevity and morphology, they make for excellent index fossils.

Importance

2. This picture demonstrates the vitality of acritarchs during the Cambrian by displaying the increase in diversity prior to the presence of artitrachs. They were key for the survival of some species.

Distribution

5. This figure describes the distribution of acritarchs in the Russia and Eastern Europe platforms. Their wide distribution makes them a great index fossil. 12 (dark colored star)-Early Cambrian acritarch assemblages, 13 (grey colored star)-Middle Cambrian acritarch assemblages, 14 (white colored star)-Late Cambrian acritarch assemblages.

Diversity

3. This graph displays the spike in diversification after the beginning of the cambrian, notably known as the Cambrian Explosion.

Ornamentations

4. This picture based graph shows the many different ornamentations, or spines and hairs, that were present during the Paleozoic era. This era was the time in which the group Aritarch saw the most diversification, post cambrian explosion.

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