

A NET FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MODEL CALCITE RHOMBOHEDRA

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Coccoliths, and most other nannofossils, are composed of calcite and in order to understand their structure it is useful to have an understanding of the symmetry of calcite. The net given here can be used to construct models of the rhombohedral calcite unit cell. These are useful for envisioning the relationships between the faces and axes of common calcite forms, and in particular for interpreting the rhombohedral faces which are often developed during diagenesis of coccoliths. Drawings showing the relationship of this cell to the atomic structure of calcite are given in standard mineralogy texts, and in Young (1993).

On the net the apices through which the c-axis emerge are indicated by a triangle of lines. Similarly the points of a-axis emergence (through the middle of edges) are indicated by dashes. To use the net photocopy it onto paper or light card, cut it out, fold and glue.

REFERENCE

Young, J.R., 1993: The description and analysis of coccolith structure. In, B. Hamršíd & J.R. Young (eds.) Proceedings of the 4th INA Conference, Prague 1992. *Knihovnička ZPN*, 14a, 35-71.

