

Ichnotaxonomic note

Microcommacopros, a replacement name for the coprolite *Commacopros* Hunt, Nielsen & Milàn, 2026

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Microcommacopros is suggested as a replacement name for the ichnogenus *Commacopros* Hunt, Nielsen & Milàn, 2026, from the Eocene Lillebælt Clay Formation, to avoid confusion with the ichnogenus *Kommacopros* Duffin & Ward, 2025, from the Late Cretaceous of Morocco, as they share the same etymological root, but are morphologically different.

Keywords: Coprolites, vertebrate, invertebrate, Eocene, Denmark

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<https://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:8F7D4538-B368-4018-B221-829498161693>

Hunt *et al.* (2026) named the ichnogenus *Commacopros* for tiny, sub-mm sized to mm -sized coprolites from the early – middle Eocene Lillebælt Clay Formation (L2) in the active claypit at Hinge, middle Jylland, Denmark. Christopher J. Duffin drew our attention to his recent naming (with David J. Ward) of the coprolite ichnogenus *Kommacopros* from the Late Cretaceous of Morocco (Duffin & Ward 2025). Not only are the names *Commacopros* and *Kommacopros* very similar but they also derive from the same Greek root *komma* (punctuation mark). Morphologically, *Kommacopros* differs significantly from *Commacopros* in that *Kommacopros* is characterized as being “Amphipolar coprolites characterised by poorly defined internal spiral structure, a homogenous ground mass devoid of inclusions, but divided into a series of well-defined (non-spiral) segments” (Duffin & Ward 2025), while *Commacopros* is defined as “Reniform coprolite with rounded cross section and ends with one narrower tip folded over” (Hunt *et al.* 2026), which excludes the possibility of combining them into one ichnogenus. Thus, we propose replacing *Commacopros* with the new ichnogenetic name *Microcommacopros*. The addition of *micro*, meaning small (from the Greek *mikros*), to the ichnogenetic name

recognizes the small size of the Danish specimens.

OESM refers to specimens are stored in the collection of KALK/Museums of East Zealand.

Systematic ichnology

Microcommacopros igen. nov.

Zoobank LSID. <https://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:C6FCC9A1-5CA8-43BF-B555-018D6C03F060>

Commacopros: Hunt *et al.* 2026, p. 142

Type ichnospecies. *Microcommacopros* (*Commacopros*) *dentziendiasae* (Hunt *et al.*, 2026).

Included ichnospecies. Known only from the type ichnospecies.

Etymology. From Greek *mikro* (small) in reference to the small size of the bromalite, *komma* (punctuation mark) in reference to morphology of the coprolite in lateral view and Greek *kopros* (dung).



Fig. 1. Holotype and paratypes of *Microcommacopros dentziendiasae* comb. nov., in lateral view. A: Holotype OESM 13451. B: Paratype, OESM 13452. C: Paratype, OESM 13453. D: Paratype OESM 13454. All specimens reproduced to same scale.

Diagnosis. Reniform coprolite with rounded cross section and ends with one narrower tip folded over.

Distribution. Eocene of Denmark.

***Microcommacopros dentziendiasae* comb nov.**

Commocopros dentziendiasae: Fig. 1.

Holotype. Østsjællanders Museer, OESM 13451 (Fig. 1A).

Paratypes. OESM 13452–13454 (Fig. 1B–D).

Etymology. Named for Paula Dentzien-Dias for her significant contributions to the study of vertebrate coprolites.

Diagnosis. As for ichnogenus.

Type locality. Hinge claypit, middle Jylland, Denmark.

Type horizon. Lillebælt Clay Formation, L2 (Eocene).

Distribution. As for ichnogenus.

Acknowledgments

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References

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