5. Amitha prolata Shafik (1989)

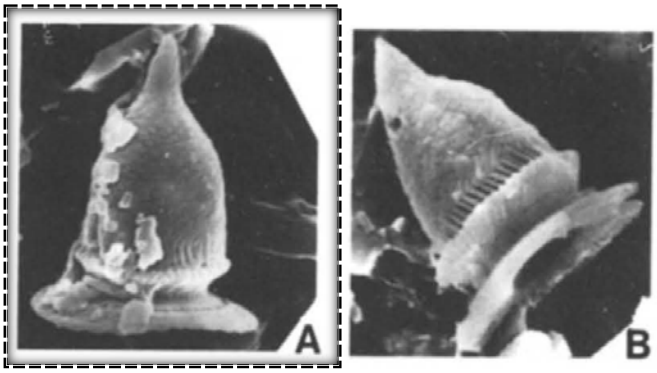

Fig. 4A-B

Diagnosis: As for the genus, but with the following specific characteristics. The central structure is dominated by a high cupola. The height of the cupola (CT1) relative to the height of the adjacent tier (CW) is usually in the order of 5:1. A zone of narrow slits occupies the skirt of the cupola.

Description: The outline is broadly elliptical to nearly circular. The basal shield consists of three cycles. The inner cycle (S3) is constructed of a large number of laminae, imbricate in the plane of the shield. On the distal side, the intermediate cycle (S2) is very narrow and appears as a groove separating the other two cycles. The outer cycle (S1) is constructed of subtrapezoidal plates which are jointive (abut one another) or slightly imbricate. The crystal plates of the (CW) tier adjacent to the high cupola are imbricate in a plane almost perpendicular to the plane of the basal shield. The cupola (CT) is the dominant part of the central structure. It is constructed of strongly imbricate laths which are arranged in a whirl pattern. A sharp decrease in the diameter of the cupola near its top usually produces an elongated cone-shaped structure which can be offcentre. A zone of narrow slits (CT2) occupies the skirt of the cupola.

Differentiation: *Amitha prolata* differs from *A. perfecta* sp. nov. essentially in having a much higher cupola. *Discoturbella moorii* Roth 1970 has a high cupola constructed of spirally arranged plates, but its basal shield appears to be monocyclic.

Material: Holotype CPC21502 (Fig. 4A) is from the Browns Creek Clays sample MFN-1838. Paratype CPC21503 is also from the same formation, sample MFN-2062.

Shafik, S. 1989. Some new calcareous nannofossils from Upper Eocene and Lower Oligocene sediments in the Otway Basin, southeastern Australia. *Alcheringa,* **13(1):** 69-83.