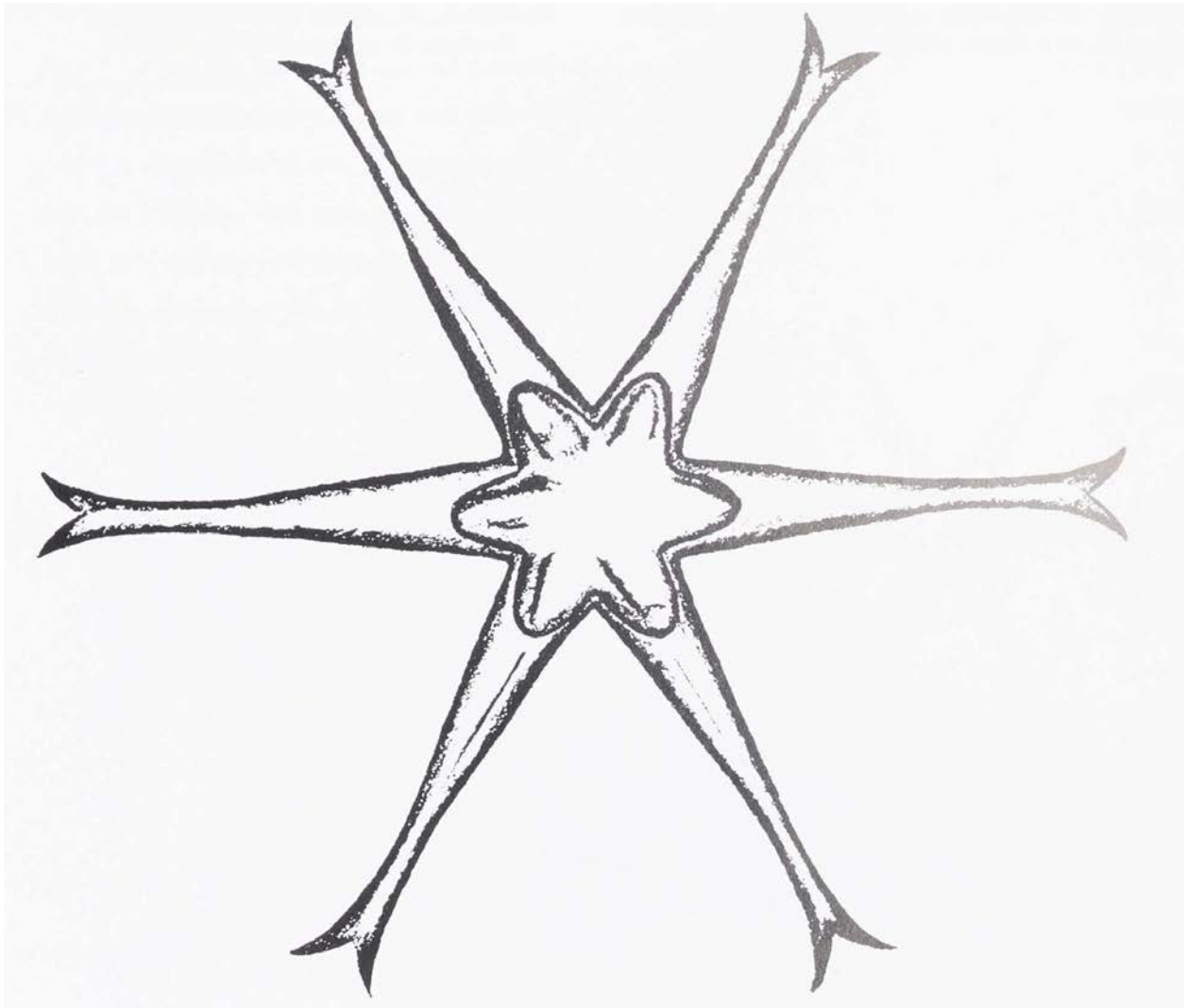


34. *Discoaster petaliformis* Moshkovitz & Ehrlich (1984) *coincidental* Akers (1995)



Text-fig. 1

Text-figure 1. *Discoaster petaliformis* Moshkovitz and Ehrlich [sic], 1984, *coincidental*, n. subsp., x325.

**Description:** The subspecies typically has six rays with bifurcations forming an angle of forty- five degrees. The central knob is extremely high and is present on both distal and proximal sides. The knobs cover the central area and extend a short distance along the rays. They are also six-rayed but unbifurcated. The length of each ray is invariably twice the diameter of the central knob.

**Holotype:** USNM 487756; the longest dimension is along extremities of the opposing rays and is four microns.

**Type locality:** The holotype is from Odeco-Murphy, OCSG-5879, well no. 2, Green Canyon Block 21, at a depth of 12,540-12,570 feet.

**Discussion:** Most of the specimens figured by Moshkovitz and Ehrlich [sic] (1984, Unit 10, figs. 163-169) have rays that are only as long as the diameter of the central knob but some

have rays twice the length of the diameter. The specimens observed in wells off the Louisiana Gulf Coast do not have this variation. Accordingly, the writer believes that the isolation of individuals in the Louisiana Gulf Coast Neogene from individuals in Israel gave rise to different gene pools for ray length. This difference indicates the validity of a geographic sub-species.

Akers, W.H., 1995. *Discoaster petaliformis* Moshkovitz and Ehrlick [sic], 1984, *coincidental*, a new subspecies from the subsurface of Louisiana. *Tulane Studies in Geology and Paleontology*, **28**: 131-132.