**Discoaster tridenus** KAMPTNER emend. **BUKRY**, 1981


Figs. 15-17 — *Discoaster tridenus* KAMPTNER, emended, DSDP Sample 470-5-2, 50-51 cm, (13) five specimens in one field of view, (16, 17) individuals showing central-area ornamentation.

**Remarks:**

This symmetric, five-rayed discoaster has long, slender, curved rays, little or no central area, and a very small central plug that was not illustrated in the original drawings. In cross-polarized light, the apparent birefringence of the five ray-crystallites is fainter than that associated with specimens of *Discoaster pentaradiatus* Tan. By size and structure, *D. tridenus* is related to *D. Brouweri* Tan. An unusually large abundance of *D. tridenus* is noted in DSDP Sample 470-5-2, 50-51 cm (40 m), which is assigned to lower Subzone CN12b. A lack of *D. asymmetricus* Gartner in this sample implies some threshold relation between the symmetric and asymmetric members of the *D. brouweri* group. *D. tridenus* occurrences may be poorly recorded, in part, because of general similarity to *D. pentaradiatus* with broken or poorly developed tips or because of lumping the tipically small numbers of five-rayed forms with the more dominant six-rayed *D. brouweri*. See Hay and Beaudry (1973) for a quantitative evaluation of *D. tridenus* in the Pliocene. Miocene references to *D. tridenus* at DSDP Site 149 should be recorded as *D. bellus* Bukry and Percival—which is a smaller form, with more-tapered and less-curved rays.

**Author:**

Reference: