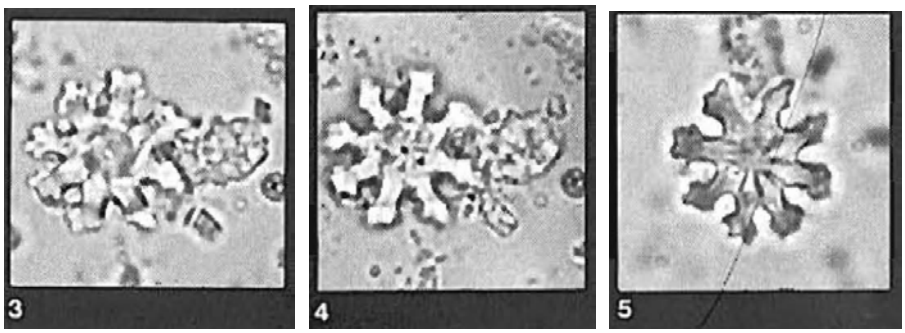
126. Helio-discoaster mirus (Deflandre, 1952) Theodoridis (1983) emend. Theodoridis (1984)



Pl. 31, figs. 3-5

Discoaster mirus Deflandre in Grassé 1952, P. 465, fig. 362
Discoaster mirus Deflandre in Grassé 1952 - Deflandre 1954, p. 168, fig. 118
Discoaster mirus Deflandre in Grassé 1952 – Martini 1961, p. 12, pl. 3, fig. 24
Discoaster mirus Deflandre in Grassé 1952 – Kapellos 1973, p. 112, pl. 18, figs. 8,11
Discoaster mirus Deflandre in Grassé 1952 - Müller 1979, pl. 4, figs. 10-11
Discoaster monstratus Martini 1961, p. 12, pl. 3, fig. 26; pl. 5, fig. 53
Discoaster gemmifer Stradner 1961, p. 86, fig. 83
Discoaster gemmifer Stradner 1961 - Stradner and Papp 1961, partim pp. 69-71, pl.24, fig. 6; table 9, figs. 2-5, text-fig. 8/6; non pl. 24, figs. 4, 5; table 9, fig. 1
Discoaster gemmifer Stradner 1961, Perch-Nielsen 1971, pp. 63-64, pl. 53, figs. 3-4
Discoaster nonaradiatus Klumpp 1953 – Sullivan 1965, p. 43, pl.10, fig. 6
Discoaster nonaradiatus Klumpp 1953 – Perch-Nielsen 1971, pp. 64-65, pl. 52, fig. 8
Discoaster deflandrei – Black 1968, pl. 153, fig. 6
Discoaster distinctus Martini 1958 – Kapellos, 1973, partim, pl. 14, figs. 7-9; pl. 18, fig. 7; non pl. 9, fig. 12; pl. 13, fig. 9; pl. 21, fig. 3; pl. 22, fig. 11; pl. 27, fig. 4
Discoaster distinctus Martini 1958 –Kapellos and Schaub I973, partim pl. 5, figs. 3-4, non pl. 2, fig. 5 pl. 8, fig. 5.
Helio-discoaster mirus (Deflandre, 1952) Theodoridis 1983, p. 19

Description: The number of segments of the asteroliths of this species various from 5 to 10. The central area is large in relation to the arms. The arms are short, broaden towards their tips and bifurcate because of a shallow notch. The bifurcations are short, pointed and possess lateral blade-like extensions.

The sutures on the superior face are curved or hooked in anticlockwise direction. At the centre of the same face a pronounced knob is present.

Exceptionally well-preserved specimens show superior faces ornamented by nodes. The nodes are arranged in rows that radiate from the centre of the asterolith towards the tips of the arms.

On the inferior face the sutures may be slightly curved and a small central knob may be present occasionally.

Differential diagnosis: The asteroliths of *H. mirus* and *H. binodosus* are comparable in having large central areas and relatively short arms. *H. mirus* differs from *H. binodosus* in having lateral blades close to the tip of the arms. Furthermore, the knob of the superior face of *H. mirus,* if present at all, is smaller than the equivalent structure of *H. binodosus.*

Emendation: We emend the definition of this species to confine it to specimens with curved or hooked sutures.

Remarks: In the original description of *Helio-Discoaster mirus* no mention is made about the shape of the sutures. The emendation was prompted in order to avoid confusion of this species with closely similar species of *Eu-discoaster* such as *E. deflandrei* and *E. distinctus.*

Occurrence: *H. mirus* ranges from zone CP10 to zone CP13.

Theodoridis, S., 1984. Calcareous nannofossil biozonation of the Miocene and revision of the helicoliths and discoasters. *Utrecht Micropaleontological Bulletins,* **32:** 271pp.