

Sphenaster Wilcoxon (1970)

Diagnosis: Small, concavo-convex, sphenolith-like form, petaloid in plan view. Thickened elements radiate from an open central area and are joined throughout most of their length. As viewed from the side, each element tapers pyramidally from the base to the top.

Type species: *Sphenaster metula* Wilcoxon, n. sp.

Remarks: *Sphenaster* differs from *Sphenolithus* in presenting a uniformly symmetrical extinction pattern between crossed nicols and by the presence of a hole through the center. It differs from *Discoaster* in not being a single unit of calcite.

Wilcoxon, J.A., 1970. *Sphenaster*, new genus, a Pliocene calcareous nannofossil from the tropical Indo-Pacific. *Tulane Studies in Geology and Paleontology*, **8**: 78-81.