**Sphenolithus conicus** Bukry, 1971

*Description:*

This large species is characterized by its tall triangular outline in side view. The several apical spines are partly coalesced to form the triangular to rounded triangular upper section of the nannofossil. In cross-polarized light, the base is divided into quadrants by the extinction bands when the long axis of the nannofossil is aligned with a polarization direction. The height of the lower quadrants is equal to or slightly greater than the upper quadrants. The apical complex is bright when oriented at 45° to the polarization directions.

Dimensions: 7-12 microns.

*Remarks:*

*Sphenolithus conicus* could be mistakenly identified as a large *Sphenolithus heteromorphus* DeFlandre but is distinguished by the greater proportion of the fossil that is formed by the basal quadrants instead of by the apical complex. It is distinguished from *S. moriformis* (Brönnimann & Stradner) by its triangular instead of hemispheric outline.

*Type level:*

Lower Miocene.

Occurrence: *Sphenolithus conicus* occurs in lower Miocene sediment of the lower *Triquetrorhabdulus carinatus* Zone from the Pacific Ocean.

*Type locality:*

DSDP 80-5-2, 63-65 cm, East Pacific Rise, eastern equatorial Pacific.

**Figs. 10-12 — Sphenolithus conicus** n. sp., x 2,000. 10) holotype USNM 176912, DSDP 80-5-2, 63-64 cm, 90°, 11) holotype, cross-polarized, 90°, 12) holotype, cross-polarized, 45°.
Depository:
United States National Museum.
Holotype: USNM 176912 (figs. 10-12).

Author:
Bukry D., 1971, p. 320; pl. 5, figs. 10-12.

Reference: