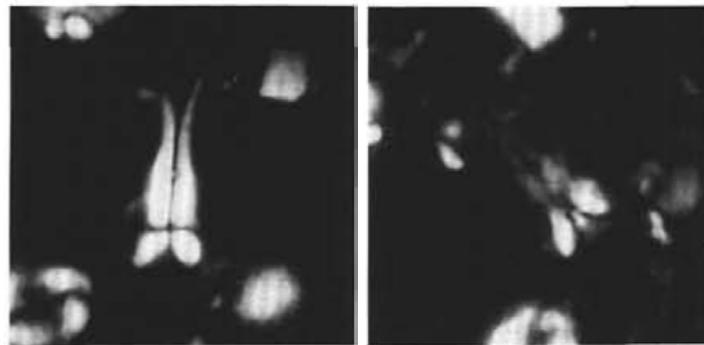


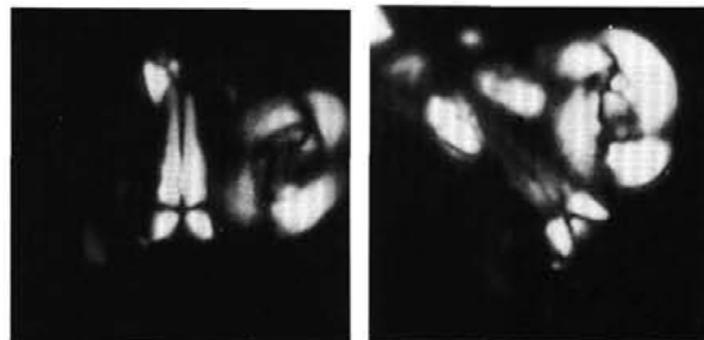
212. *Sphenolithus furcatolithoides* Locker (1967) *labradorensis* Firth (1989)



15

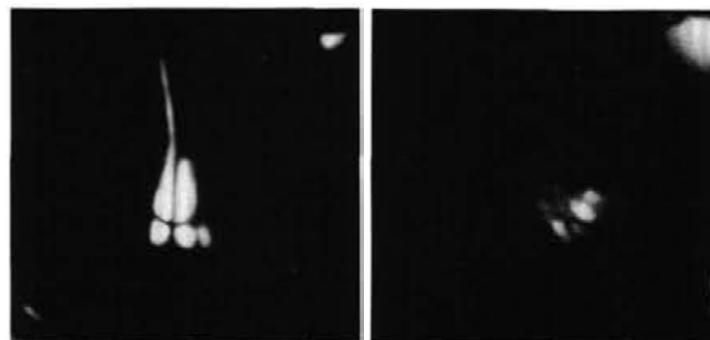
16

Pl. 2, figs 15, 16



1

2



3

4

Pl. 3, figs 1-4

Description: A sphenolith having a narrow proximal shield and a long, narrow, tapering apical segment. The apical segment may have straight sides or be slightly bulbous near its proximal end. The apical segment bifurcates at the apex, but this bifurcation is often broken off. Under cross-polarized light, parallel to the nicols, the apical segment is split into two parts by an extinction line. The proximal shield also is split into two parts, and it is separated from the apical segment by an extinction line that is at 90° to the long axis of the specimen. At 45° to the nicols, the apical segment becomes extinct, while the proximal shield is split into three parts. The central partition is thinner than the outer

two and tapers apically to a point.

Remarks: This subspecies has a similar range and extinction pattern under cross-polarized light as typical forms of *Sphenolithus furcatolithoides*. However, the latter differs by possessing an apical segment that separates into two wide furcations near the base. Each of these furcations tapers quickly to a thin spine. In *S. furcatolithoides labradorensis*, the two halves of the apical segment remain together as they taper to a point and then bifurcate into two thin spines at the apex. No intermediate forms were observed. *Sphenolithus obtusus* differs from *S. furcatolithoides labradorensis* in that the apical segment birefringes at 45° to nicols, rather than going extinct.

Occurrence: Middle Eocene (NP15-NP16) at Site 647, Labrador Sea; middle Eocene (NP16) at Site 356, South Atlantic (Perch-Nielsen, 1977, Pl. 49, Figs. 33 and 42-44).

Size: Holotype-length = 7.2 µm; Paratypes-length = 7-8 µm.

Holotype: Pl. 2, Figs 15 and 16.

Paratype: Pl. 3, Figs. 1-4.

Type locality: Labrador Sea, Sample 105-647A-52R-2, 122-124 cm.

Firth, J.V., 1989. Eocene and Oligocene calcareous nannofossils from the Labrador Sea, ODP Leg 105. *Proceedings of the Ocean Drilling Program, Scientific Results*, **105**: 263-286.