

BOMBYCION

Porter, Meisterfeld & Knoll 2003

p 421

BOMBYCION new genus

Type species.—*Bombycion micron* n. sp., by monotypy.

Diagnosis.—VSMs with apertural plane strongly tilted with respect to aboral axis; aperture flush with the lower test wall, such that tests lack a “neck.” Aperture is circular.

Etymology.—From the Greek, *bombykion*, cocoon; with reference to their cocoon-like appearance.

Discussion.—In both *Bombycion* and *Bonniea* n. gen., the apertural plane is tilted relative to the aboral-oral axis, rather than oriented perpendicularly as it is in all other taxa. The two genera are distinct, however, in the presence vs. absence of a “neck.” In *Bonniea*, the plane of the aperture is more or less at right angles to the part of the test walls that form the rim of the aperture. Thus, aperture and the test walls are distinct, and the test appears to have a “neck,” curved in *Bonniea*. In *Bombycion*, the angle between the “upper” wall and the plane of the aperture is 90 degrees or greater, but the angle between the plane of the aperture and the “lower” wall is zero. Thus, the aperture appears to be flush with the lower test wall, and the test appears to lack a “neck.” That this is used as a generic-level distinction is supported by modern testate amoeban taxonomy, which similarly distinguishes taxa with a curved “neck” [e.g., *Cyphoderia ampulla* (Fig. 9.24) and *Nebela retorta* (Fig. 9.25)] from those with apertures flush with the lower test wall [e.g., *Trinema enchelys* (Fig. 13.5, 13.6)] (Meisterfeld, 2002b).

Varo-shaped microfossil

