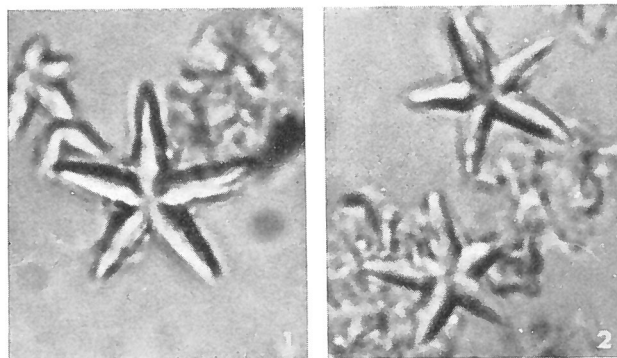


Discoaster bellus BUKRY & PERCIVAL, 1971



Figs. 1-2 — *Discoaster bellus* n. sp., 1) Holotype USNM 169189, 55.0-4-1, 130-131 cm; 2) USNM 169190 and 169191. 2000 x.

Description:

These small, simple, five-rayed discoasters lack any central knob or central area development and have straight rays that taper slightly and terminate in points. Rarely a tiny spur is present at the ray points.

Size: 8 to 14 microns.

Remarks:

Discoaster bellus is distinguished from *Discoaster hamatus* MARTINI & BRAMLETTE by consistently smaller size and lack of large ray-tip spur. It lacks the delicate non-tapered rays and long bifurcations of *D. pentaradiatus* and the distinctive central knob of other upper Miocene five-rayed discoasters such as *D. berggrenii* and *D. quinqueramus*.

Type level:

Lower upper Miocene (Tortonian).

Occurrence: *Discoaster bellus* is distinctly smaller and more abundant than *D. hamatus* in oceanic samples (Pacific Ocean, DSDP Leg 6) of the lower upper Miocene (Tortonian) *Discoaster hamatus* Zone and persists above *D. hamatus* into the overlying *Discoaster neohamatus* Zone.

Type locality:

DSDP core 55.0-4-1, 130-131 cm, Caroline Rise, Pacific Ocean.

Depository:

U.S. National Museum. Holotype: USNM 169189; Paratypes: USNM 169190 and 169191.

Author:

Bukry D. and Percival S.F., Jr., 1971, p. 128; pl. 3, figs. 1, 2.

Reference:

New tertiary calcareous nannofossils. *Tulane Studies in Geology and Paleontology*, vol. 8, nº 3, pp. 123-146, pls. 1-7.