

**Sphenolithus predistentus** BRAMLETTE & WILCOXON, 1967

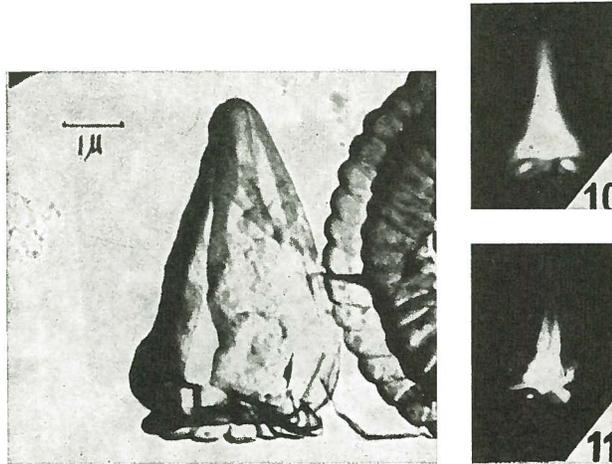


FIG. 6 — *Sphenolithus predistentus* BRAMLETTE & WILCOXON, n. sp. side view, Joides 3, (418 ft) paratype, U.S.N.M. 650 668. FIGS. 10-11 — *Sphenolithus predistentus* BRAMLETTE & WILCOXON, n. sp. (10) long axis 45° to crossed nicols, TIOC 193785, holotype, U.S.N.M. 650 671, (11) long axis 0° to crossed nicols. x 2700.

**Description:**

Sphenolith with a large apical spine, flat or slightly depressed at the base where attached to a single annular ring of 10-12 lateral spines. Apical stem tapers strongly for about half its length and then gradually to a pointed or bifurcating tip. Between crossed nicols the apical spine appears to be formed of coalesced calcite units of slightly different optical orientation.

**Remarks:**

This species is similar to and clearly grades into *S. distentus*. Within the interval of their overlap in range the distinction is difficult except as populations. Otherwise, however, their occurrence in large numbers and many places permit clear differentiation, and the succession of these taxa is of obvious stratigraphic significance. With the apical spine at 45° to the crossed nicols (fig. 10) the small basal spines of *S. predistentus* appear as attached to a nearly flat base of the apical spine, which broad base extends laterally as much or more than the rather inconspicuous basal spines. In similar view, *S. distentus* (fig. 5) shows more conspicuous basal spines and the extinction lines extend upward to overlap some of the base of the apical spine.

**Type level:**

Middle Tertiary.

Distribution — Common in the *Globigerina ampliapertura* Zone and few in the *Globorotalia*

*opima opima* Zone of Trinidad. Occurs in the Red Bluff and Vicksburg Formations of Mississippi, in Joides No. 3 boring from about 300 feet to 500 feet, associated with *S. distentus* in the type Rupelian of Belgium, in the "Stampiano" of Sacco in northern Italy, in part of the Tertiary d-c of Indonesia, and in some Pacific deep-sea cores.

**Type locality:**

Cipero section, Trinidad.

**Type level:**

U. S. Nat. Museum; holotype: U.S.N.M. 650 671, TTOC 193785; paratype: U.S.N.M. 650 668, Joides 3 (418 ft.).

**Author:**

Bramlette M.N. and Wilcoxon J.A., 1967, p. 126; pl. 1, fig. 6; pl. 2, figs. 10-11.

**Reference:**

Middle Tertiary calcareous nannoplankton of the Cipero section, Trinidad, W. I., Tulane Studies in Geology, vol. 5, n° 3, pp. 93-131, pls. 1-10.