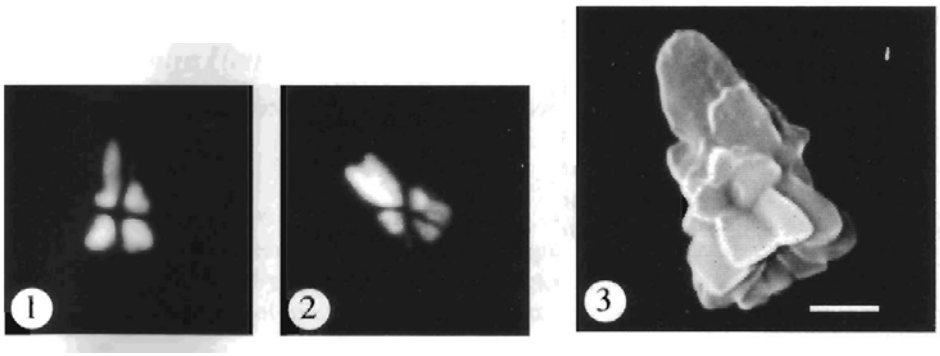
206. Sphenolithus procerus Maiorano & Monechi (1998)



Pl. 1, figs 1-3

Diagnosis: A species of *Sphenolithus* with a short proximal shield and an extended apical spine composed of elements parallel to the long axis of the sphenolith.

Description: In cross-polarised light (XPL), in the 0° position, the apical spine is divided in two by a median extinction band. At the base of the apical spine, a cycle of very short lateral elements can be recognised. At 45° to the polarisation direction. the apical spine shows a three-part arrangement similar to S. *dissimilis* Bukry & Percival, 1971 and loses the extinction band.

Differentiation: *S. procerus* differs from S. *dissimilis* by having a more-developed apical spine instead of an equivalent height between proximal shield and apical spine, and from *S. multispinatus* by having less divergent elements of the apical spine. It is differentiated from S. *cometa* by its shorter proximal shield and thinner apical spine.

Size: About 4-6μm long; the proximal shield is about half the height of the apical spine

Derivation of name: From Latin *procerus*, slender.

Occurrence: S. *procerus* has a restricted range within the Early Miocene Zone NN2 of Martini (1971) and Zone CN1c of Okada & *Bukry* (1980); the first specimens are documented above the first occurrences (FOs) of *S. disbelemnos* and of *S. cometa.* It ranges up to the upper part of Zone NN2, above the last occurrence (LO) of S. *cometa.*

Holotype: Plate 1, Figure 3, DSDP Site 563, 14-6-120cm.

Type locality: DSDP Site 563, North Atlantic Ocean.

Range: Early Miocene, Zone NN2.

Maiorano, P. & Monechi, S., 1997. New early Miocene species of Sphenolithus Deflandre, 1952 from the North Atlantic Ocean. *Journal of Nannoplankton Research*, **19(2):** 103-107.