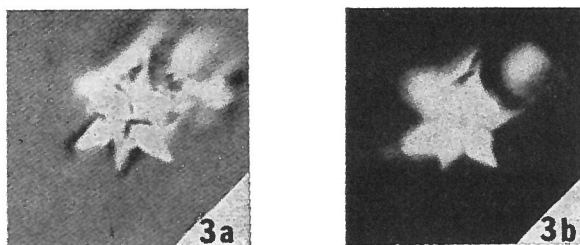


Sphenolithus stellatus GARTNER, 1971



Figs. 3a, b — *Sphenolithus stellatus* GARTNER, n. sp., J-6B, 251'.
3a) Interference contrast. 3b) Cross-polarized light.

Description:

Sphenolith with stellate outline, consisting of six segments arranged radially each segment having a different crystallographic orientation. Adjacent segments are joined along a radial suture, and the length of each segment is at least twice the length of the sutures. At the periphery the segments are evenly tapered and pointed.

Remarks:

Sphenolithus stellatus superficially resembles small asteroliths but is readily distinguished from them in cross-polarized light. It differs from all species of *Sphenolithus* by the regular stellate outline and by the small number of radially arranged segments.

Type level:

Middle Eocene. JOIDES core J-6B, 251'.

Occurrence: *Sphenolithus stellatus* was recorded only from the middle Eocene interval of the JOIDES Blake Plateau core J-3.

Type locality:

JOIDES core J-6B, 251', Blake Plateau, Atlantic Ocean.

Depository:

Not given.

Author:

Gartner S., Jr., 1971, p. 114; pl. 5, figs. 3a, b.

Reference:

Calcareous nannofossils from the JOIDES Blake Plateau cores, and revision of Paleogene nannofossil zonation. *Tulane Studies in Geology and Paleontology*, vol. 8, n° 3, pp. 101-121, pls. 1-5, 5 figs.