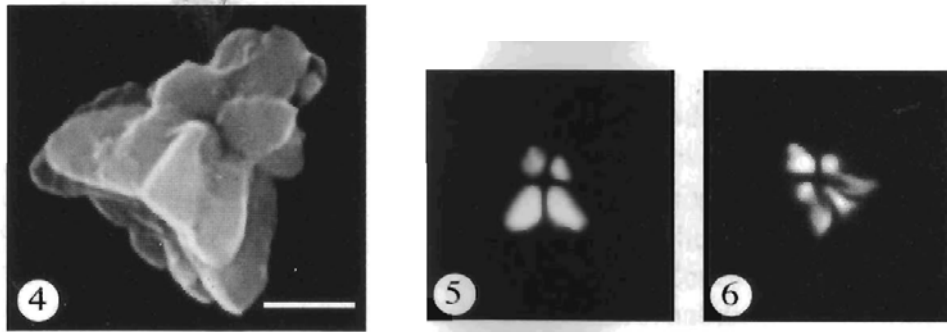


209. *Sphenolithus tintinnabulum* Maiorano & Monechi (1998)



Pl. 1, figs 4-6

**Diagnosis:** A species with a distinctive triangular outline and a very short and multipartite apical spine.

**Description:** The proximal shield is both wider and higher than the apical spine. When oriented at 45° to the polarisation plane, a very short apical spine is visible, sometimes showing a three part arrangement. It shows intermediate characteristics between *S. disbelemnus* and *S. belemnus*; the apical spine is similar to the former and the proximal shield to the latter.

**Differentiation:** *S. tintinnabulum* differs from *S. disbelemnus* by its distinctive triangular outline and wider proximal shield. It is differentiated from *S. belemnus* Bramlette & Wilcoxon, 1967 by the multispinate structure and the length of the apical spine.

**Size:** About 2-4µm long.

**Derivation of name:** From Latin *tintinnabulum*, small bell.

**Occurrence:** The species is recorded in the upper part of Zone CN1c and in the CN2 Zone. First occurrences of *S. tintinnabulum* have been documented in the upper part of Zone NN2; the species partly co-occurs with *S. belemnus* and highest occurrences are recorded slightly above the LO of *S. belemnus*.

**Holotype:** Plate 1, Figure 4, DSDP Site 563, 13-3-120cm.

**Type locality:** DSDP Site 563, North Atlantic Ocean.

**Range:** Upper Zone NN2 and Zone NN3.

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.