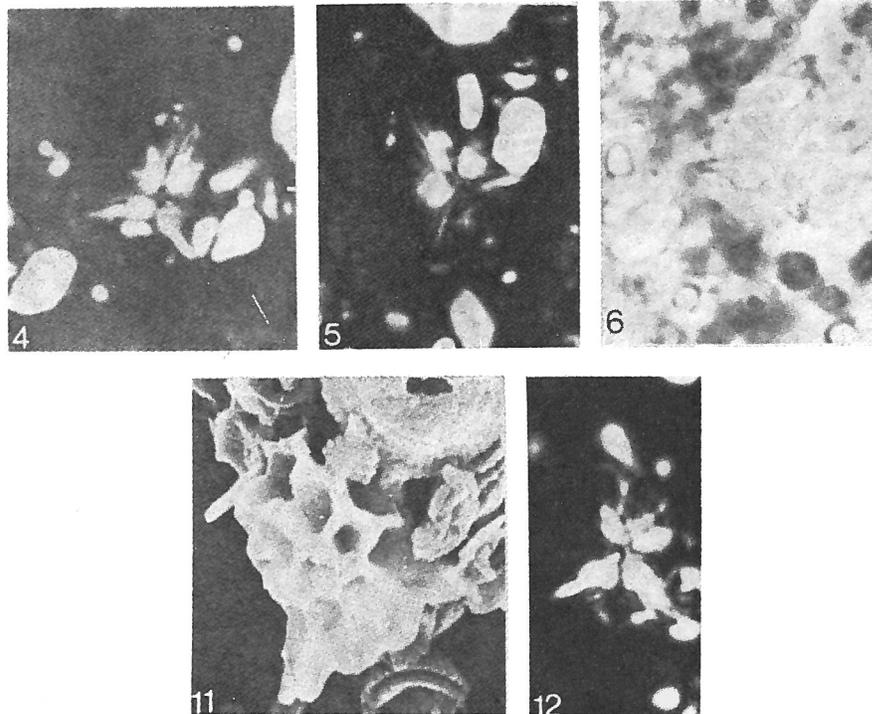


**Sphenolithus verensis** BACKMAN, 1978



Figs. 4-6, 11, 12 — *Sphenolithus verensis* n. sp. 4-6, Holotype. 4-6, 12, Vera Basin, sample 11, 3000  $\times$ . (4) and (12) 0° to crossed nicols, (5) 45° to crossed nicols, (6) phase contrast, (11) DSDP 42A/376/6/4 (140-141 cm), SEM micrograph 5800  $\times$ .

**Description:**

The basal ring of spines, forming the proximal part of the individual, is obtuse and the spines are comparatively long. Perpendicular on each basal spine is a ridge attached to and directed parallel with the underlying spine. The distal part is made up of thin walls forming hollow cone-shaped elements pointed towards the median line of the sphenolith. The delicate structures give the impression of a rugged (spiny) outline when seen under crossed nicols. The sphenolith has a median extinction band when oriented parallel with the polarization directions, and the basal ring of spines are usually seen as extruded from the main part of the body. Usual height is 4-9  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Derivation of name: After the Vera Basin.

**Remarks:**

In the light microscope *S. verensis* can be confused with *S. abies* DEFLANDRE, but can be distinguished from that species by its broader base and more irregular

(spiny) outline. *Sphenolithus verensis* is not so pronouncedly or uniformly bright as *S. abies* under crossed nicols.

**Type level:**

Upper Miocene.

Occurrence: Observed in the late Miocene-early Pliocene in the Vera Basin and in the same interval in the investigated DSDP cores.

**Type locality:**

Vera Basin, SE Spain.

**Depository:**

Geologiska Institutionen, Stockholm Universitet.

**Author:**

Backman J., 1978, p. 111; pl. 2, figs. 4-6, 11, 12.

**Reference:**

Late Miocene-Early Pliocene nannofossil biochronology and biogeography in the Vera Basin, SE Spain. Acta Univ. Stock., Stockholm Contributions in Geology, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 93-114, 2 pls.