Vermiculithina arca BUKRY & PERCIVAL, 1971

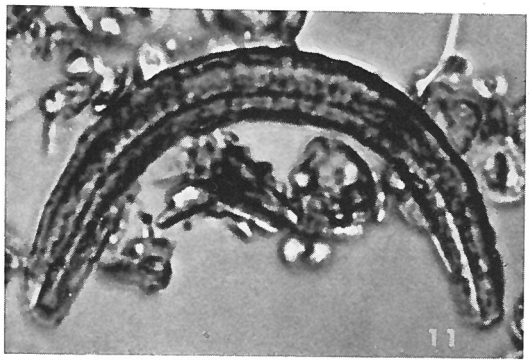

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Fig. 11 — *Vermiculithina arca* n. sp., n. gen. 11) Holotype: USNM 169231, J3, 130 meters, 1000 x.

Description:

This species is a large, curved, cylindrical form that tapers towards the two smaller ends of the cylinder. A narrow central canal, occupying a third or less of the cylinder diameter, extends the entire length of the cylinder. The curvature of the cylinder consistently forms a semicircle. Innumerable radially arrayed tiny elements form the structure.

Size: 50 to 70 microns.

Remarks:

The large doubly tapering cylinder in a semicircular shape is unlike any other species or genus of calcareous nannofossil. Though the outward shape and size somewhat resembles a sponge spicule, the complex ultrastructure of *Vermiculithina arca* suggests a fossil nannoplankton origin.

Type level:

Lower Oligocene.

Occurrence: *Vermiculithina arca* is present in small numbers in lower Oligocene nannofossil ooze from the Blake Plateau in the Atlantic Ocean east of Florida (JOIDES core 3).

Type locality:

JOIDES core 3, 130 meters, Blake Plateau, Atlantic Ocean.

Depository:

U.S. National Museum. Holotype: USNM 169231.

Author:

Bukry D. and Percival S.F., Jr., 1971, p. 144; pl. 7, fig. 11.

Reference:

New tertiary calcareous nannofossils. Tulane Studies in Geology and Paleontology, vol. 8, nº 3, pp. 123-146, pls. 1-7.