

Orbiculina drawn out at the umbilici, so as to form a subglobular, oval, or fusiform shell.

Lastly, *Keramosphæra* is a little globe made up of concentric layers, each layer composed of a large number of chamberlets,—in other words, a spherical Orbitolite.

From end to end, from *Cornuspira* and *Spiroloculina* to *Orbitolites* and *Alveolina*, if not to *Keramosphæra*, the series is nearly unbroken. Each successive type embodies only a slight modification of its predecessor, either in the number of the chambers, their more or less symmetrical disposition, whether spiral or cyclical, or their subdivision into chamberlets; but even the features selected to characterise the genera are open to constant variation, and the genera themselves are for the most part additionally connected by dimorphous forms.

Sub-family 1. *Nubecularinæ*.

Nubecularia, DeFrance.

Nubecularia, DeFrance [1825], Blainville, Jones and Parker, Carpenter, Karrer and Sinzow, Brady, Terquem, Siddall, Seguenza.

Amorphina, Parker [1860].

Sagrina, pars, Brady [1879].

An excellent account of the genus *Nubecularia* is given by Dr. Carpenter in the Introduction to the Study of the Foraminifera, and its wide range of variation in external form is well illustrated in the accompanying drawings made from recent specimens by Mr. George West.

More recently Karrer and Sinzow¹ have described and figured a series of large thick-shelled varieties which occur in extraordinary abundance in certain Tertiary deposits in the south of Russia, notably in the Sarmatian Sands of Kischenew in Bessarabia; and these have been recognised by Prof. Parker as identical in general characters with specimens in the collection of the late Sir Charles Lyell from Miocene localities in the south of France.

The two memoirs referred to, with the addition of a brief notice by Jones and Parker,² of a fossil species of much earlier geological age almost complete the published literature of the genus. The Challenger gatherings furnish two interesting modifications of the type, not previously recorded, but otherwise throw but little new light upon the group.

Nubecularia is found living in the laminarian and littoral zones and, rarely, at greater depths, in the seas of tropical and to some extent of temperate latitudes. Its geological history dates back to the Triassic period, and it is found also in the Oolite; but in the fossil condition it is best known as a constituent of some Tertiary deposits of France, Italy, Russia, and elsewhere.

¹ *Sitzungsb. d. k. Akad. Wiss. Wien*, vol. lxxiv. p. 272, pl. i.

² *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. xvi. p. 455, pl. xx.