

Nubecularia divaricata has only been observed in three localities :—Humboldt Bay, on the north coast of Papua, 37 fathoms ; off Raine Island, Torres Strait, 155 fathoms ; and off Tongatabu, Friendly Islands, 18 fathoms.

Sub-family 2. Miliolininæ.

(*Miliola* and *Miliolites*, Lamarck.)

Messrs. Parker and Jones, recognising the close relationship which exists amongst the subordinate groups of the more strictly Milioline Foraminifera, and the impossibility of dividing the series except by lines more or less lax and conventional, treat the whole as constituting a single genus, *Miliola*, and employ the d'Orbignian terms *Biloculina*, *Spiroloculina*, *Triloculina*, and *Quinqueloculina* in subgeneric sense. This method of dealing with the subject presents certain advantages, and so long as it does not entail a system of trinomial nomenclature it may be adopted without inconvenience. I venture only to differ from the authors in one minor point, namely, the questionable desirability of attempting to separate the Triloculine from the Quinqueloculine forms.

The morphological relationship between the first two of these subgeneric groups, *Biloculina* and *Spiroloculina*, involves but little difficulty, and is readily understood. Typically the plan of growth is the same,—two chambers on the same plane to each convolution ; but whilst *Biloculina* has wide, somewhat inflated segments, each of which in its turn encloses all those previously formed on the same side, so that only two segments are visible externally, *Spiroloculina* has narrow, non-embracing chambers, arranged alternately and symmetrically, so that every segment is seen on both sides of the shell. These are distinctions so generally accepted, and under ordinary circumstances so easily recognised, that the occurrence of an occasional specimen with intermediate characters is of no practical inconvenience.

But with the Triloculine and Quinqueloculine members of the series the case is otherwise. The subdivision of the *Miliolæ* proposed by d'Orbigny in his *Tableau méthodique de la classe des Céphalopodes*,¹ has been employed by systematists, with but few exceptions, to the present time. It contains the two following generic descriptions under the family AGATHISTÈGUES :—

“ Genre III. *Triloculina*.—Loges opposées sur trois côtés ; la même forme à tous les âges ; trois loges apparentes.”

“ Genre V. *Quinqueloculina*.—Loges opposées sur cinq côtes ; cinq loges apparentes.”

The whole weight of the distinction embodied in these definitions hangs on the words “à tous les âges,” which, it is scarcely necessary to point out, admits a most undesirable basis for the division of an unusually variable group. The number of varietal forms that can be said to have uniformly only three external segments is exceedingly limited, whilst,

¹ *Annales des Sci. Nat.*, 1826, vol. vii. pp. 299, 301.