

on the other hand, most of the *Quinqueloculina* have a Triloculine stage of growth. Under d'Orbigny's definitions young specimens and adults of the same variety have over and over again been placed as distinct species in separate genera. Amongst smooth-shelled forms the anomaly might pass unnoticed, but amongst those in which peculiarity of surface-ornamentation affords the principal distinctive character the double nomenclature becomes palpably absurd. There is still another objection to these generic terms, which is brought into stronger light than heretofore by specimens obtained from the Challenger dredgings, namely, that the number of exposed segments is not necessarily either three or five. In one striking subarenaceous species, *Miliolina alveoliniformis*, there are often seven or eight, long, narrow chambers in the peripheral whorl; and in another arenaceous form, *Miliolina triquetra*, instead of two segments, one up and one down, forming the axial circuit of the test throughout, there are usually three segments in the final circuit of adult shells, the contour becoming flattened as in *Spiroloculina*, and more or less triangular. Neither of these could be included in any of the Milioline genera as hitherto constituted. Instances of the same sort might readily be multiplied, but enough has been said to show that *Triloculina* and *Quinqueloculina* may properly be discarded as generic or even subgeneric names, just as *Adelosina* was long since abolished and for similar reasons, and that some general name less open to objection should be found for this portion of the group. Prof. Williamson, after discussing the question with his usual acumen,¹ adopts the term *Miliolina* for the section under consideration, and with a slight modification of the characters assigned to it in his Monograph, its general adoption would be a distinct gain to systematic zoology.

The position taken by Parker and Jones is unassailable, viewed from a strictly biological standpoint. The great diversity amongst Foraminifera in the comparative constancy and distinctiveness of the minor peculiarities which characterise the subordinate forms has already been adverted to. Many instances might be cited in which apparently trivial characters are as reliable and as little subject to variation as those of animals more highly organised, but such is not the case amongst the *Miliolæ*. The successive modifications merge one into the other so as to constitute an almost unbroken series, and the task of the zoologist resolves itself into the selection of the salient forms most suitable for quasi-specific names. Under these circumstances, the term *Miliola* may very properly be used in a generic sense to comprehend a great variety of closely associated forms having the same general type of structure; whilst *Biloculina*, *Spiroloculina*, and *Miliolina* represent subordinate divisions, under which, for more easy identification and for convenience of nomenclature, it is necessary to arrange them.

¹ Recent Foraminifera of Great Britain, p. 83.