

between the successive modifications fail of application when the number of specimens is large,—*Spiroloculina planulata*, *Spiroloculina nitida*, *Spiroloculina limbata*, *Spiroloculina impressa*, *Spiroloculina excavata*, and others, are but successive terms of a series in which every intermediate link can be supplied. Under these circumstances the distribution of each variety as distinct from its congeners must be taken with much reservation.

The geographical range of the typical *Spiroloculina planulata* is very wide. It is abundant on our own shores, and is a common organism in littoral and shallow-water sands in temperate regions generally. It is not found in Arctic latitudes, and in the tropics its place is often occupied by closely allied varieties, such as *Spiroloculina nitida*. It is not at home in deep water, nevertheless Parker and Jones mention "rare" specimens in two soundings from the North Atlantic below 2000 fathoms.

What appears to be a feeble modification of the species has been met with in the Lower Lias; and well-marked specimens occur from time to time, in company with other *Miliolæ*, in Tertiary deposits, from those of the Paris Basin (Louvres and Grignon) to the Crag of the eastern counties of England and the Pliocene of Italy.

*Spiroloculina nitida*, d'Orbigny (Pl. IX. figs. 9, 10).

"*Frumentaria Sigma et Rhombos*," Soldani, 1795, *Testaceographia*, vol. i., part 3, p. 230, pl. clv. figs. ll. mm.

*Spiroloculina nitida*, d'Orbigny, 1826, *Ann. Sci. Nat.*, vol. vii. p. 298, No. 4.

" " Parker, Jones and Brady, 1871, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. viii. p. 248, pl. viii. fig. 24.

Soldani's drawing (*loc. cit.*, fig. ll.), named by d'Orbigny *Spiroloculina nitida*, appears to be intended for one of the varieties of *Spiroloculina planulata* which differs from the typical form in its discrete or slightly inflated segments and the somewhat produced superior extremity of the final chamber. The complanate shallow-water *Spiroloculina* of the tropics are very variable in minor characters, but a considerable section of them, well typified by the figures Pl. IX. figs. 9, 10, may be assigned to this particular form.

*Spiroloculina nitida* is common in the coral-sands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans and of the Red Sea; it occurs also in the Inland Sea of Japan, in the Mediterranean, and elsewhere.

Soldani appears to have obtained the species from the Italian Tertiaries, as well as in the recent condition.

*Spiroloculina fragilissima*, n. sp. (Pl. IX. figs. 12-14).

Test nearly circular, complanate, extremely thin; peripheral edge rounded. Segments numerous, much curved, the later ones in adult specimens nearly semicircular. Shell-wall