The genus *Discorbina*, as at present understood, was established by Parker and Jones for a group of *Rotalinæ* of which the *Rotalia* (*Trochulina*) *turbo* of d'Orbigny is the central type, and the *Discorbites vesicularis* and *Rotalites trochidiformis* of Lamarck, names of still earlier date, prominent examples. The morphological characters of the group are simple and easily understood, and they do not, on the whole, exhibit quite the same range of variation as is to be met with in the collateral genera *Planorbulina* and *Pulvinulina*.

The test of *Discorbina* is either free or parasitic; it is invariably spiral and typically Rotaliform. Generally speaking, the superior or spiral face is convex or conical, the inferior nearly flat, the whole of the segments being visible in the former aspect, the final convolution only in the latter, and the margin is more or less angular. There are, however, a number of forms, of which *Discorbina rugosa* is an example, the two faces of which are nearly equally convex and the peripheral edge round and lobulated; others, such as *Discorbina biconcava*, that are complanate, both sides being flat or slightly concave and the margin square; and others again, like *Discorbina saulcii*, which are nearly flat on the superior, and convex on the inferior side. The number of convolutions varies from between one and two to four; the total number of segments from seven to twenty or rather more.

The superior aspect of the test does not differ materially from that of the collateral genera of *Rotalinæ*, the distinctive features being more especially connected with the form and arrangement of the segments as seen on the inferior side. On the inferior face, as a rule, only the last convolution is visible; and the aperture of the shell takes the form of a slit or fissure at the umbilical margin of the terminal chamber. The actual opening, however, is seldom visible, being hidden (in typical specimens) by a lobe or tongue projecting from the edge of the segment. These "umbilical lobes" or valves are extremely variable, both as to shape and dimensions. In their fullest development they are separated by marked constrictions from the body of the segments, and form supplementary chambers, which not only mask the umbilicus, but spread radially almost to the periphery of the test, covering-in the septal depressions to a greater or less extent, and alternating with the primary segments, as shown in Pl. LXXXVII. figs. 2 *b*, 4 *b*, and 8 *b*. Such specimens constitute the genus *Asterigerina* of d'Orbigny. But in the majority of cases the supplementary structures are much less conspicuous. Sometimes they form solid masses of shell-substance, filling the umbilicus, and marked externally with exogenous tubercles; on the other hand, the lobes of the successive chambers are often little more than arched projections overhanging the successive orifices; and in certain species they are still more rudimentary, and insufficient collectively to fill or cover the umbilical vestibule. In one form or other these Asterigerine lobes may almost always be recognised, but not only do the several species differ in the degree to which they are developed, but individuals of the same species vary greatly in the same particular.