

The claims of the numerous Tertiary *Heterosteginae* to the specific positions accorded to them by palæontologists, are in almost every case problematical. But without entering into this question, it may be broadly stated, that fossil specimens, identical in all important characters with the recent species, occur as far back as the limestones of the Eocene period.

*Nummulites*, Lamarck.

*Helicites*, Guettard [1770], Burtin, Defrance, Blainville.

*Nautilus*, pars, Forskål [1775], Fichtel and Moll.

*Camerina*, Bruguière [1792], Bosc, Cuvier.

*Phacites*, Blumenbach [1799].

*Nummulites*, Lamarck [1801], Roissy, Defrance, Blainville, Caillaud, Boubée, Ehrenberg, Deshayes, Reuss, Joly and Leymerie, d'Archiac and Haime, Bellardi, Gemmellaro, Carter, Verbeek, Hantken, de la Harpe, Jones, &c.

*Discolithes*, pars, Fortis [1802].

*Lenticulites*, pars, Lamarck [1804], Schlotheim, Defrance, Blainville, Bronn, d'Archiac, Rüttimeyer.

*Numulites*, *Lycophris*, *Rotalites*, *Egeon*, Montfort [1808].

*Nummularia*, Parkinson [1811], Sowerby, Rüttimeyer.

*Lenticulina*, pars, Lamarck [1822], Defrance, Blainville, Reuss.

*Nummulina*, d'Orbigny [1826], Bronn, Michelotti, Carpenter, Schafhäütl, Rüttimeyer, Rouault, Savi and Meneghini, Carter, Costa, Williamson, Jones and Parker, Bornemann, Karrer, Kaufmann, Brady, Terquem, &c.

*Amphistegina*, pars, Reuss [1855], Carpenter.

The genus *Nummulites* exemplifies the highest type of structure attained by the perforate calcareous Foraminifera. It is, however, a genus of which our knowledge is derived almost entirely from fossil specimens, and its still living representatives, which are limited to one or two inconspicuous forms, afford no sufficient standpoint for a general survey of its characters or history. Of recent years the study of *Nummulites* and their immediate allies, at any rate so far as affects their comparative morphology and systematic grouping, has been chiefly conducted by specialists, who have had peculiar facilities for obtaining the fossil forms, which exist in enormous numbers in the rocks of the earlier portion of the Tertiary epoch. The literature of the genus is probably more extensive than that of any other group of Protozoa of similar zoological importance; and amongst the authors to whose labours we owe our present accurate acquaintance with the various phases of its history, the names of Joly and Leymerie, d'Archiac and Haime, Williamson, Carpenter, Carter, Jones and Parker, von Hantken, and de la Harpe, are the most prominent. The chief desiderata still remaining are the judicious reduction of the number of so-called species, and the simplification of the nomenclature of the group.

The typical *Nummulite* has the form of a biconvex disk, the two sides of which are equal or nearly so, formed of a number of convolutions, each completely enclosing that