

The large thick-shelled *Miliolæ* flattened on two sides in a direction at right angles to the normal plane of compression have long been familiar to rhizopodists under d'Orbigny's name *Biloculina contraria*; and the recent researches of Seguenza and Steinmann have led to the recognition of that species as the type of a new generic group.

About the year 1868, a number of specimens of a form closely allied to *Biloculina contraria* were obtained by the late Edward Waller, from sands dredged in the Farøe Channel, during the "Lightning" Expedition. The specimens, which were tolerably abundant, differed from *Biloculina contraria* in their relatively thinner build, the frequent asymmetry of the two sides, and the tendency to assume a crosier-like rather than a lenticular shape. Some of these, kindly supplied by the Rev. A. M. Norman, from Mr. Waller's collection, are represented in Pl. CXIV. figs. 4-7. They were at first regarded as examples of a new species of *Hauerina*, and the name *Hauerina walleri* had been assigned to them in manuscript. Prof. Seguenza, however, in his recent memoir, *Le Formazioni Terziarie nella Provincia di Reggio (Calabria)*, has described and figured fossil organisms identical with them in every important particular, under the generic appellation *Planispirina*.

Very shortly after the appearance of Seguenza's work,¹ a memoir was published by Dr. Steinmann of Strassburg, entitled *Die Foraminiferengattung Nummuloculina*, n. g., containing an elaborate exposition of the structure and affinities of the *Biloculina contraria* of d'Orbigny. The most important conclusion resulting from Steinmann's researches was, that the planospiral habit of growth, the number of segments in the later convolutions, and above all the lateral extension of the chamber-walls with the consequent Nummuline lamination of the shell, were distinctive characters of sufficient importance to serve as the basis of a new generic group.

Simultaneously with this paper appeared one by myself, in which similar forms, found in the "Porcupine" dredgings, amongst them those figured in Pl. XI. figs. 10, 11, were described as examples of a new species of *Hauerina*.

There seems on the whole some advantage in the course followed by Seguenza and Steinmann; and, notwithstanding the close relationship of such shells to *Hauerina* on the one hand, and *Biloculina* on the other, it may be convenient to accept the two species referred to as the representatives of an independent genus, under the earlier name *Planispirina*. Aberrant forms like *Biloculina irregularis*, d'Orbigny, *Biloculina*

¹ As the question of the relative priority of the terms *Planispirina* and *Nummuloculina* is involved, it may be stated that Prof. Seguenza's memoir bears on the title-page the date 1879, and that it was in the hands of the Secretary of the R. Accad. dei Lincei in February 1877. Dr. Steinmann's paper appeared in the *Neues Jahrb. für Min., &c.*, for 1881, but the separate copies were printed and distributed at the latter end of 1880. I may be allowed to add that Pl. XI. of the present Report was drawn on the stone by Mr. Hollick as long ago as 1878, and that the resemblance of the figures of this species to some of those given by Steinmann is in a certain sense accidental.

As a matter of choice the term *Nummuloculina* seems more appropriate than *Planispirina* to a genus comprising amongst others such forms as *Planispirina sigmoidea*, but the selection in such a case is governed by the ordinary rule of precedence.