

appears to represent its northernmost limit. As remarked by Dr. Carpenter, these localities are all characterised by a low bottom-temperature, 37° Fahr. (2°·8 C.), or less. The remaining localities are,—Setubal Bay, coast of Portugal, 64 fathoms; the Mediterranean, near Carthage; and the Ægean, 250 fathoms. The Rev. A. M. Norman states that he has “received specimens from the Marquis da Monterosato, dredged in 100–200 fathoms off the Sicilian coast”; and, further, that during the dredging operations of “le Travailleur” in the Bay of Biscay, specimens which “equalled a sixpence in size” were obtained at a depth of 1200 fathoms, in the deep ravine known as the Fosse de Cape Breton.²

Orbitolites tenuissima has not heretofore been recognised as a fossil species; nevertheless Costa (Paleontologia del regno di Napoli, part 2, pl. xvi. figs. 26–28) has figured two specimens which seem to place beyond question its existence in the later Tertiaries of Southern Italy. The drawings referred to are named *Pavonina italica*, and it is impossible to compare them with those in Pl. XV. of the present Report, especially fig. 7, or with the central portion of one of the figures given by Dr. Carpenter (Report on Orbitolites, pl. i. fig. 1), without the conviction that they are taken from specimens with almost precisely identical characters, although the former, like many of Costa’s illustrations, are somewhat lacking in detail. The fossil shells are obviously only fragments, a circumstance sufficiently accounted for by the extreme tenuity of the test.³

Orbitolites marginalis, Lamarck, sp. (Pl. XV. figs. 1–5).

Orbitolites marginalis, Lamarck, 1816, Hist. Nat. Anim. s. Vert., vol. ii. p. 196, No. 1.

Sorites orbiculus, Ehrenberg, 1839, Abhandl. d. k. Akad. Wiss. Berlin (for 1838), p. 134, pl. iii. fig. 2, a, b, c.

Orbiculina (Orbitolites) complanata, Williamson, 1851, Trans. Micr. Soc. Lond., ser. 1, vol. iii. p. 115, pl. xvii. fig. 8; pl. xviii. figs. 9, 10.

Orbitolites marginalis, Carpenter, 1856, Phil. Trans., p. 192, pl. ix. figs. 1–4, &c.

„ *complanata*, Parker and Jones, 1860, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 3, vol. vi. p. 29, No. 32.

„ *marginalis*, Carpenter, 1883, Report on the Genus Orbitolites, Zool. Chall. Exp., part xxi. p. 20, pl. iii. figs. 1–7; pl. iv. figs. 1–5.

Orbitolites marginalis resembles the allied *Orbitolites tenuissima* in the comparative simplicity of its structure, the chamberlets being arranged as in that species in a single

¹ Proc. Roy. Soc., 1876, vol. xxv. p. 211.

² Report Brit. Assoc., 1880, Swansea Meeting, p. 389.

³ Costa appends the following remark to his description of the species,—“La sua fragilità è somma, onde rarissimi sono gli esemplari che abbiám potuto raccorre meglio conservati, niuno essendovene senza qualche mancanza più o meno sensibile.” *Op cit.*, p. 180.

The author states that specimens are not uncommon in the Tertiary marls of Reggio; it is therefore probable that the species will be found again in the same or similar deposits. Should the view which I have taken prove correct, the specific name “*italica*” will of course take precedence of “*tenuissima*.” Costa himself appears to have been in great doubt about the Foraminiferal nature of the organism, and suggests that it may even belong to the vegetable kingdom.