

13. PLIOCENE PLANKTONIC AND BENTHIC FORAMINIFERS FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN ATLANTIC ANGOLA MARGIN: LEG 75, SITE 532, DEEP SEA DRILLING PROJECT¹

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INTRODUCTION

At Site 532 of Leg 75 (Fig. 1) hydraulic piston coring was used to drill three holes at a water depth of 1331 m. Holes 532 and 532B, discussed here, produced 61 and 73 cores, respectively. Core catchers from those two holes were provided to me through the courtesy of the shipboard paleontologist, Dr. Charles McNulty. In Hole 532, core catchers and an occasional extra sample in each core were studied from Cores 12 to 61; in Hole 532B only core catchers of most of Cores 12 to 71 were examined. Planktonic foraminiferal faunas and their biostratigraphic zonations are shown in Table 1 and Figure 2; benthic foraminiferal species are listed in Table 2.

PALEOGEOGRAPHIC SETTING

Site 532 was drilled on the continental margin of Angola near the easternmost end of the Walvis Ridge. At a bottom depth of 1331 m, the holes lay within the path of Antarctic Intermediate Waters (AAIW) flowing north along the continental slope of Africa. Overlying AAIW is the north-flowing, sluggish Benguela Current and its countercurrent system which produce a seasonally developing divergence zone in this region. The Benguela upwelling is thought to deliver AAIW to the surface in this area (Calvert and Price, 1971).

At Site 532, bottom sediments, which form the habitat of the benthic foraminifera, consist of marls dominated by: (1) terrigenous input deriving from the African continental margin, primarily from the embouchement of the Congo River; and (2) siliceous components produced in the fertile zone of the upwelling (Melguen, 1978). Leg 75 cores exuded significant amounts of biogenic gases on shipboard, attesting to bacterial activity and the high organic carbon contents (nearly 8%) of the sediments. Thorough bioturbation demonstrated, however, that the sediments were not anoxic (Dean, Arthur, Stow, this volume).

OBJECTIVES

The setting of Site 532 along a middle latitude continental margin within an active upwelling system provides an opportunity to document: (1) planktonic foraminiferal faunas and their fluctuations as the upwelling evolves with the distinct climatic variations of the Pliocene (Shackleton and Opdyke, 1977); (2) some effects of

middle latitude upwelling sedimentation upon planktonic foraminiferal biostratigraphic zonations: (3) benthic foraminiferal faunas of the slope AAIW during these same distinct Pliocene climatic events; and (4) benthic faunas from areas with high sediment accumulation rates and in cycles which are themselves largely related to climate. The low sampling density for this study, however, allows only preliminary descriptions here of these faunas and their paleoecologies.

PLIOCENE PLANKTONIC FORAMINIFERS

Pliocene planktonic foraminifera from Hole 532B are listed in Table 1 along with a rating of their preservation and a tabulation of their diversities in each sample. Faunal lists include all species recognized in the > 149 μ m fraction.

Site 532 temperate planktonic foraminiferal faunas include high proportions of *Globigerina bulloides*, *Globorotalia puncticulata*, *G. inflata*, including a strongly pustulose morphotype, *G. conoidea*, *G. conomiozea*, and *Orbulina universa*. Less frequent are *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma*, *G. cultrata*, *Globoquadrina dutertrei*, and *Globorotalia crassaformis*. The characteristic Pliocene low-latitude biostratigraphic indices *G. multicaemata*, *G. miocenica*, *Sphaeroidinellopsis seminulina-subdehiscens*, *Globoquadrina altispira*, and *Globigerina nepenthes* were found only sporadically and in low abundance; their presence or absence is strongly correlated with sediment type.

Planktonic foraminiferal diversity, expressed simply as species richness, averages around 17 species; it is highest (20–23 species) in the well-preserved oozes of Cores 63–57 of early Pliocene age and is consistently relatively high again (17–13 species) in the latest Pliocene/earliest Pleistocene age samples above Core 19. The high values of the early Pliocene are never again recorded, even in the well-preserved sequence near the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary; therefore, they cannot be attributed to sediment preservation, but reflect a proliferation of species during the early Pliocene immediately prior to the appearance of *Globorotalia crassaformis* (Fig. 3).

The presence of small amounts of the subtropical species *Globigerinoides ruber* and *G. sacculifer* throughout the sequence suggests the presence of warm, saline surface waters, while the presence of the keeled globorotaliids of the *Globorotalia conoidea*–*G. conomiozea* group, rather than the subtropical keeled globorotaliids, indicates substantial cooling and/or the absence of mixed-layer water through the thermocline in this area. It is assumed that the upwelling process has displaced

¹ Hay, W. W. Sibuet, J.-C., et al., *Init. Repts. DSDP, 75*: Washington (U.S. Govt. Printing Office).

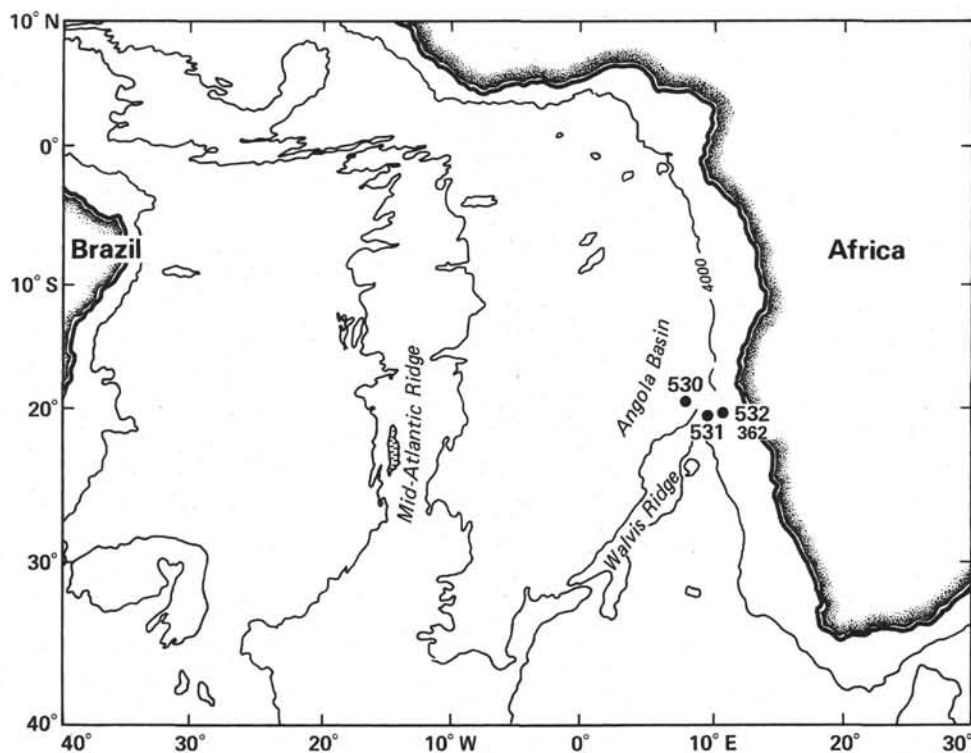


Figure 1. Location of sites drilled in the Angola Basin on Leg 75.

the mixed-layer water and replaced it with AAIW in the region of Site 532.

Preservation of the planktonic foraminifers fluctuated strongly through the section; the apparent degree of fluctuation here may be accentuated by the fact that only core catchers were examined. During episodes of good preservation in Cores 63–55, 44–38, and 13–12, the coarse fractions of the sediments contain primarily planktonic foraminiferal oozes with accessory clay, pyrite, benthic foraminifers, and planktonic siliceous fossils. Planktonic diversities reach maximum values and the rare keeled globorotaliids *G. miocenica* and *G. multicamerata* are found.

During the episodes of poor preservation from Cores 37–23 and within Core 19–18, diversity may drop to as low as five to six species, radiolarians may compose nearly 85% of the coarse fraction, and most of the planktonic foraminifers may be reduced to fragments. In such samples only the most resistant species such as *G. inflata* are preserved; benthics are also preserved and may equal 50% of the foraminiferal populations. These poorly preserved samples are always darker in color and have smaller > 149 μm fractions.

PLANKTONIC FORAMINIFERAL BIOSTRATIGRAPHY

Despite the sporadic occurrences of the lower latitude index species, a rough subdivision of the Pliocene according to Berggren (1973) was possible (Fig. 2). As in other middle latitude areas, it was not possible to separate zones P11–2 and P15–6 because of the simultaneous use of *Globigerina nepenthes* and *Globorotalia marga-*

ritae in the former case, and the absence of *G. miocenica* above Zone P14.

The Pliocene zones of Jenkins (1978) described at adjacent Site 362 and of Kennett (1973) and Srinivasan and Kennett (in press) were easily recognized by the presence/absence of the nominate species (Fig. 2). The *Globorotalia puncticulata* Zone was particularly short because of the appearance of *G. crassaformis* almost immediately above that of *G. puncticulata*.

Comparison of foraminiferal and nannofossil stratigraphy (Steinmetz et al., this volume) demonstrates offsets between the boundaries of foraminiferal and calibrated nannofossil zones. For example, the top of P13 should correspond to the top of *Reticulofenestra pseudoumbilica* Zone (NN15) (Berggren, 1973). Instead, the foraminiferal zonal top is found three cores lower. In a similar example at Site 532 the initial appearance of *G. truncatulinoides* occurs three cores above the top of NN18, rather than below it.

Solution susceptible foraminifer indices are most likely to be offset from calibrated nannofossil datums; most of the foraminifer datums of the mid-Pliocene at Site 532 are thus displaced by the intense dissolution of this time. The delayed appearance of the more solution-resistant species, *G. truncatulinoides*, (Berger, 1971) however, cannot be considered an artifact of dissolution, but must represent an ecologically induced delay in the appearance of *G. truncatulinoides* in the Site 532 area.

At Site 532 the *G. conoidea*–*G. conomiozea* and *G. sphericomiozea* groups, including morphotypes resembling *G. miozea*, range into the late Pliocene (Fig. 2). The *G. conoidea*–*G. conomiozea* plexus ranges through

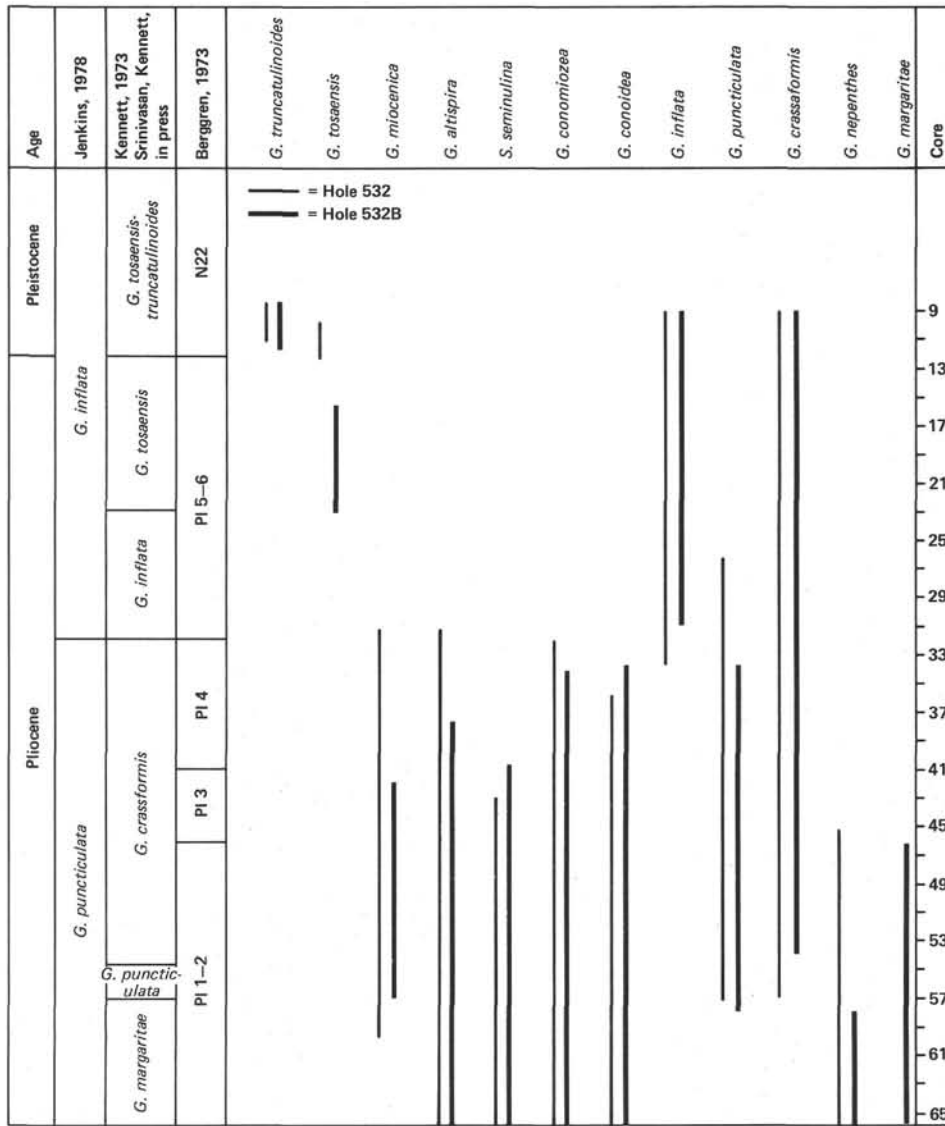


Figure 2. Biostratigraphic subdivision of the Pliocene section at Site 532 according to the zonation schemes of Kennett (1973, 1978) and Srinivasan and Kennett (in press) for temperate faunas; and Berggren (1973) for lower latitude sections. Ranges of key planktonic foraminiferal species used to make the zonal subdivisions were derived from the range chart (Table 1) and are listed in Table 3.

first in Cores 58-56 of the early Pliocene, and the second, which involves mainly pleurostomellids and bolivids, in Core 31. Species which disappear through this section include: *Gavelinella semicibrata* and *Osangularia culter* in Core 54; *Planulina renzi* in Core 44; *Angulogerina illingi* in Core 39; *Uvigerina rutila* in Core 37; *U. schwageri* group in Core 35; and *Eggerella bradyi* and *Martinottiella communis* in Core 24.

Species indicative of the shallow depth (1331 m) and continental slope location of the site include: the *U. schwageri* group, *U. rutila*, *Robulus nuttalli*, *Rotalia translucens*, *Nodosaria stiliformis*, *Plectofrondicularia jarvisi*, and *Cassidulinoides bradyi*. Two other faunal aspects which signify an upper bathyal depth include the relatively low P:B ratio, benthics sometimes composing

20-30% of the foraminiferal populations, and the flooding of several species. Flood species are *Nodosaria stiliformis*, *U. rutila*, *P. alternans*, *R. translucens*, and *Albamina* spp.

Benthic abundance correlates directly with the preservation of planktonic foraminifers; benthic foraminifers constitute less than 10% of the total foraminiferal fraction in the well-preserved planktonic oozes of early Pliocene Cores 63-55, Cores 40-42, and of the Pliocene/Pleistocene transition from Cores 19-12. Poorly preserved sediments contain from 10-50% benthic foraminifers, usually accompanied by pyrite, clays, planktonic fragments, and siliceous plankton.

Benthic diversity varies from a low of eight species in a rich planktonic ooze (Hole 532, Core 42, Section 3 to

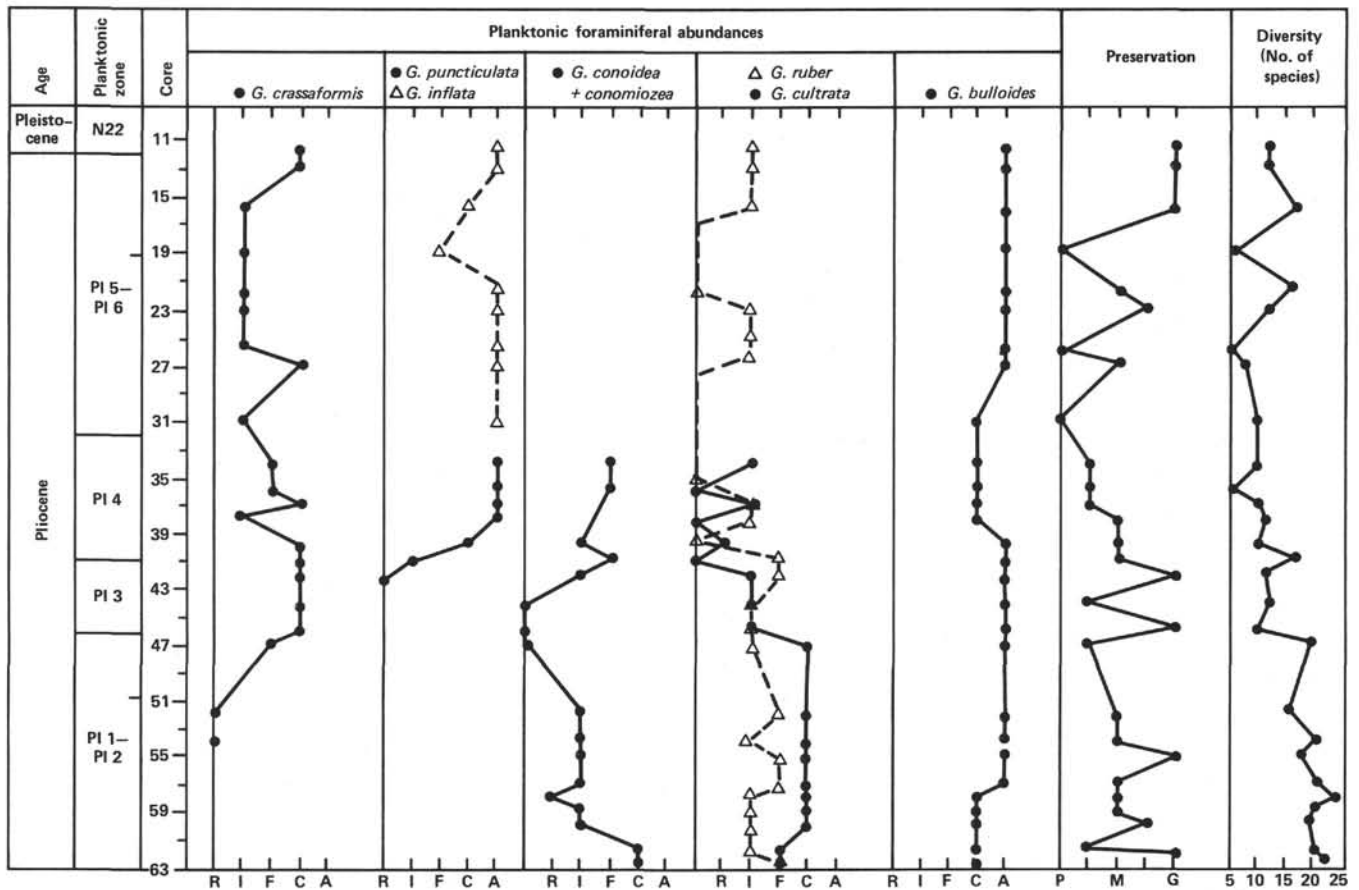


Figure 3. Abundances of key planktonic foraminiferal species through the Pliocene at Hole 532B. The bottom scale indicates the subjective estimates of species abundances as Rare (R), Infrequent (I), Frequent (F), Common (C), Abundant (A), or absent altogether (-). Preservation of the planktonic foraminiferal faunas is estimated for each sample as Poor (P), Moderate (M), or Good (G); these estimates were made to compare with the abundances of the more solution-susceptible species. Diversity of species, which is simply the number of species in each sample, was tabulated in order to demonstrate the relationship between preservation of the samples and foraminiferal species richness.

Table 3. Ranges of selected planktonic foraminiferal species in Holes 532 and 532B.

Species	Hole 532B	Hole 532
<i>Globorotalia margaritae</i>	69,CC to 60,CC	61,CC
<i>Neogloboquadrina praeumerosa</i>	67,CC to 58-3, 34	—
<i>G. trans puncticulata</i>	67,CC to 46-1, 70	—
<i>N. humerosa</i>	63-1, 48 to 19,CC	61,CC
<i>Sphaeroidinellopsis subdehiscens</i>	60,CC to 40,CC	60-3, 47 to 31-3, 31
<i>G. miocenica</i>	57,CC to 42,CC	60-1, 106 to 32-3, 10
<i>G. crassaformis</i>	54,CC to Top	57,CC to Top
<i>G. multicamerata</i>	44-2, 86 to 41,CC	32-3, 10
<i>G. puncticulata</i>	42,CC to 34,CC	57,CC to 27-2, 82
<i>G. inflata</i>	31,CC to Top	34-2, 7 to Top
pustulose <i>G. inflata</i>	26,CC to Top	—
<i>G. tosaensis</i>	23,CC to 16,CC	12-1, 144 to 11-2, 63
<i>Globoquadrina pseudopima</i>	23,CC to 16,CC	—
<i>Globorotalia truncatulinoides</i>	12,CC to Top	11-21, 63 to Top
<i>N. acostaensis</i>	71,CC to 62,CC	—
<i>G. conoidea</i>	71,CC to 34,CC	61,CC to 36,CC
<i>G. conomiozea</i>	71,CC to 34,CC	61,CC to 32-3, 1-10
<i>G. plesiotumida</i>	71,CC to 71-1, 132	—
<i>Orbulina biolobata</i>	70-2, 48 to 26,CC	—
<i>Sphaeroidinellopsis seminulina</i>	69,CC to 41,CC	60-1, 106 to 39,CC
<i>Globoquadrina altispira</i>	69,CC to 38-1, 48	61,CC to 32-3, 10
<i>Globigerina nepenthes</i>	67-1, 110 to 58-3, 34	60-3, 47 to 45,CC
<i>Globorotalia tumida</i>	63-1, 48 to Top	60-3, 47 to Top
<i>Globoquadrina dehiscens</i>	71-1, 132	—

Note: Absence of species at Site 532 indicates only that their ranges were not followed through the section at that hole.

Core 58) to highs of 32 species in Cores 54 to 58 and near 30 species in poorly preserved samples of late Pliocene Cores 28 to 24.

Through the Pliocene section at Site 532, five ecologically controlled faunal episodes can be recognized:

1) Cores 70-60: Faunas contain the distinctive bulminids *B. alazanensis* and *B. spicata*, along with *Pleurostomella alternans*, as well as the derivative Miocene species *Textularia cf. flintii*, *Planulina renzi*, and *Bolivina cubensis*—all of which disappear just after this episode;

2) Cores 58-38: Begins the major episode of benthic foraminiferal diversification of the Pliocene at this site; most of these species then range throughout the entire section.

3) Cores 37-27: Starts with a major change in species proportions; pleurostomellids and flat cassidulinids appear in greater abundances; *Pleurostomella alternans* and *Bulimina spicata* reappear, while the *Uvigerina schwageri* group disappears permanently from the sequence;

4) Core 24: Contains a substantial change in the cibicid faunas; *Cibicoides* (= *Heterolepa*) *kullenbergi* and *C. bradyi* are replaced by *C.* (= *Heterolepa*) *cicatricosus* and *Planulina cf. ariminensis*. Agglutinated spe-

cies decrease dramatically in abundance, and *eggerella bradyi* and *Martinottiella communis* disappear permanently from the section.

5) Cores 18–19: Contain influxes of large costate nodosarids and floods of finely spinose uvigerinids; heavily limbate cibicidids and planulinids disappear from the section.

The Pleistocene faunas above Core 13 are more similar to the late-Miocene to early-Pliocene faunas; *Bulimina alazanensis* and *B. spicata* return to the samples and are joined by the new species *Uvigerina peregrina*, *Bulimina aculeata*, and *B. marginata*. Limbate planulinids and an increase in spinosity of several species were also noted in these samples.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX

Annotated List of Selected Benthic Species

- Angulogerina illingi* Cushman and Renz. Common only in early Pliocene samples.
- Bolivina acerosa* Cushman. Occurs only in the late Pliocene, but not accompanying the floods of uvigerinids and large costate nodosarids in Cores 18 and 19.
- Bolivina aenariensis* (Costa) (Plate 2, Figs. 9, 10). Although *Bolivina subaenariensis* has been listed from the Pliocene of the Mediterranean and Gulf of Mexico, specimens from Walvis have no keel on the final one or two chambers. In most samples the species is generally abundant.
- Bulimina aculeata* d'Orbigny (Plate 2, Figs. 7, 8). Individuals vary from very spiny as shown on Plate 2, to slightly longer forms with very reduced ornament.
- Bulimina alazanensis* Nuttall. Specimens are common in the late Miocene to early Pliocene, occur in lesser abundance during one episode of the mid-Pliocene, and become abundant again in the Pleistocene. They are medium in size for the species.
- Bulimina spicata* Phleger and Parker (Plate 2, Figs. 5, 7). Scanning photos demonstrate the porosity of this species, which is absent on the other species found in this study. Like *B. alazanensis*, the species occurs in three distinct episodes of the early Pliocene, middle Pliocene, and early Pleistocene.
- Bulimina striata mexicana* Cushman (Plate 2, Figs. 11, 12). Specimens vary markedly through the section; wider more robust forms resemble *Bulimina inflata*, more ornamented types resemble *Bulimina bleeckeri* (Bermudez, 1949). This species is particularly abundant in the early Pliocene.
- Cassidulina carinata* Cushman. The specimens at this site are small and delicate for the species. These flatter cassidulinids become abundant only during the mid-Pliocene.
- Cassidulina murrhyna* (Schwager). This species becomes more common from the mid- to later Pliocene.
- Cassidulinoides bradyi* (Norman) (Plate 4, Fig. 5). Occurs generally along with *Cassidulinoides tenuis*, but is never common.
- Cassidulinoides tenuis* Phleger and Parker. The species is rare; it generally occurs with other elongate cassidulinids.
- Chrysalogonium lanceolum* Cushman and Jarvis. The species is generally found fragmented; it is common when present.
- Cibicidoides bradyi* Cushman (Plate 5, Figs. 1–7). This is one of the two common cibicidids in most samples. There is marked variation in the degree of porosity, as demonstrated on the plate.
- Cibicidoides cicatricosus*. The species should probably be assigned to the genus *Heterolepa*, since it is consistently ventrally flat. It is common only at the end of the Pliocene.
- Pullenia bulloides* d'Orbigny. Forms at Site 532 are typical for the species, but somewhat below average in size.
- Pullenia quinqueloba* (Reuss). Individuals are small for the species.
- Pyrgo murrhyna* (Schwager) (Plate 1, Fig. 6).
- Pyrgo subsphaerica* (d'Orbigny)
- Quinqueloculina venusta* (d'Orbigny)
- Robulus nuttalli* Cushman and Renz (Plate 2, Figs. 1, 2). The species tends to appear in floods, particularly at the very end of the Pliocene in Cores 18–19.
- Rotalia translucens* Phleger and Parker. The species appears in floods in the fine fractions, often along with *Epistominella* sp. Appearances, however, are sporadic.
- Sigmoilina schlumbergeri* Silvestri (Plate 1, Fig. 8). This is the only common miliolid; it occurs throughout the section and is common in the samples.
- Sphaeroidina bulloides* d'Orbigny. When present, the species is frequent; it is medium in size for the species.
- Stilostomella lepidula* Schwager (Plate 2, Figs. 13, 14). The species is common in many samples. Variation occurs in the degree of spinosity and in their tendency (or not) to be closely aligned.
- Textularia lythostrota* Schwager Cushman (Plate 1, Fig. 4). This is a common species which exhibits a large degree of morphologic variation. In most samples, specimens are intermediate in size for the species and less elongate than the holotype.
- Triloculina gibba* d'Orbigny (Plate 1, Figs. 9, 10).
- Uvigerina auberiana* d'Orbigny (Plate 3, Fig. 4). Specimens are large for the species. When present, the species is common.

Uvigerina hispida Schwager (Plate 3, Figs. 6, 7). The spinosity of individuals at Site 532 is less pronounced than on types from Kar Nicobar; it grades into *Uvigerina proboscidea* in both areas.

Uvigerina hispidocostata Cushman and Todd. This species is probably an ecophenotype of *Uvigerina peregrina* from which it can be differentiated by the fusiform test and the large number of small spines; it also lacks costae twisting to or around the base of its neck.

Uvigerina peregrina Cushman (Plate 3, Fig. 3). The species does not occur at this site until the Pliocene/Pleistocene transition when it is frequently found.

Uvigerina proboscidea Schwager (Plate 3, Figs. 5, 8). The species is commonly found; it is somewhat smaller than forms from Kar Nicobar where it was described.

Uvigerina schwageri Brady (Plate 3, Fig. 2). Like other large costate uvigerinids, this species demonstrates a marked variation in the degree of costate development and in their number. Forms from Site 532 have more costae than either typical *U. schwageri* from the Pacific, or *Uvigerina mitsogho*, a synonym, from onshore Angola. These variants in the late Neogene and Quaternary may need a new name.

Valvulineria humilis Phelger and Parker (Plate 4, Figs. 6, 7). The species is often common in the finer fractions, particularly in the early Pliocene.

NOTE TO PLATES

Original magnification is given here in each case. To meet publication specifications, however, each plate was then reduced as follows: Plate 1, reduced by 69%; Plate 2, reduced by 65%; Plate 3, reduced by 67%; Plate 4, reduced by 70%; Plate 5, reduced by 65%.

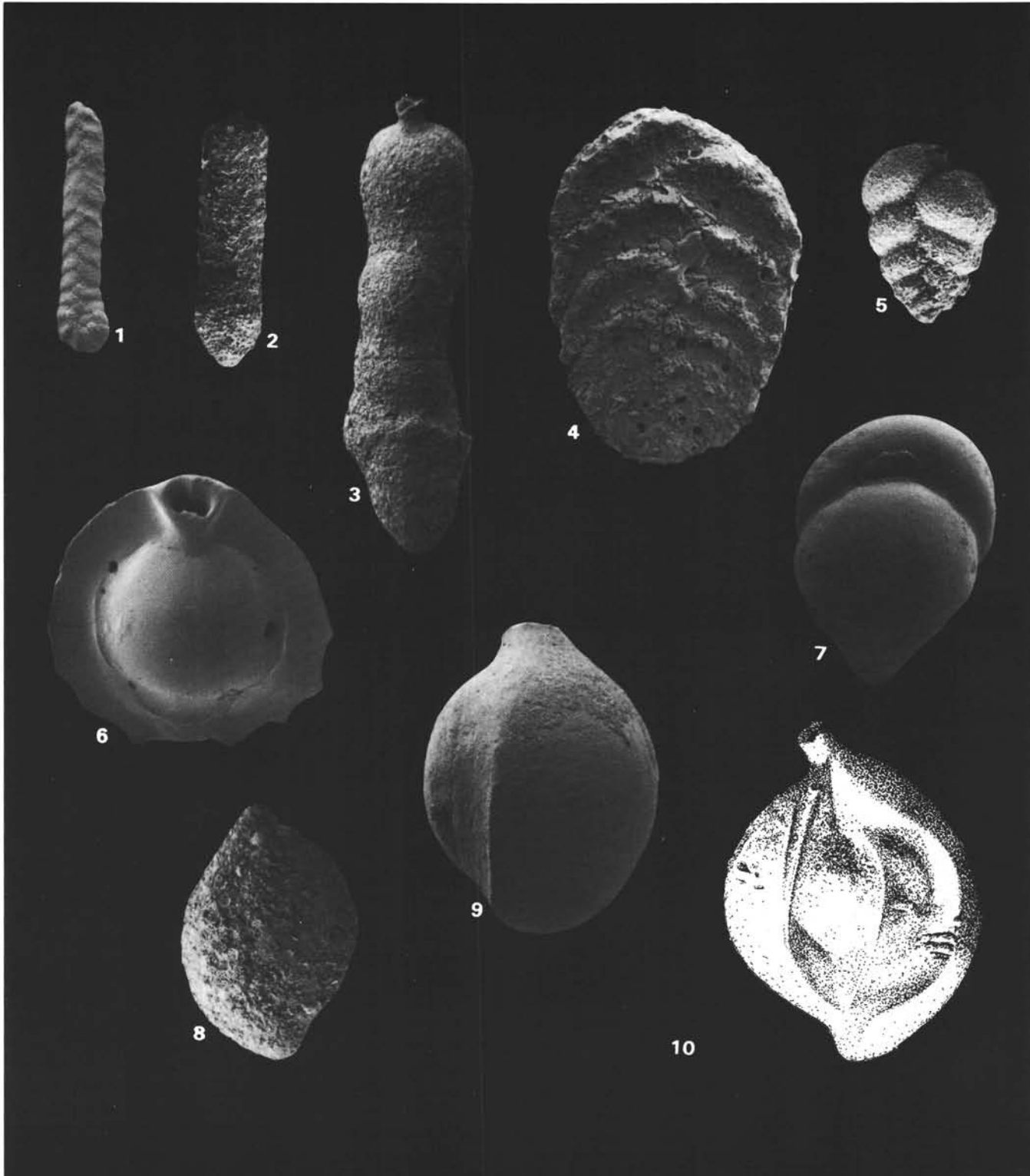


Plate 1. 1. *Bolivinopsis cubensis*, $\times 55$, Sample 68,CC. 2, 3. *Martinotiella communis*, (2) $\times 55$, Sample 14,CC; (3) $\times 110$, Sample 68,CC. 4. *Textularia lythostrota*, $\times 55$, Sample 13,CC. 5. *Siphotextularia catenata*, $\times 55$, Sample 68,CC. 6. *Pyrgo murrhina*, $\times 110$, Sample 26,CC. 7. *Eggerella bradyi*, $\times 110$, Sample 68,CC. 8. *Sigmoilina schlumbergeri*, $\times 55$, Sample 13,CC. 9, 10. *Triloculina gibba*, $\times 110$, Sample 42,CC.

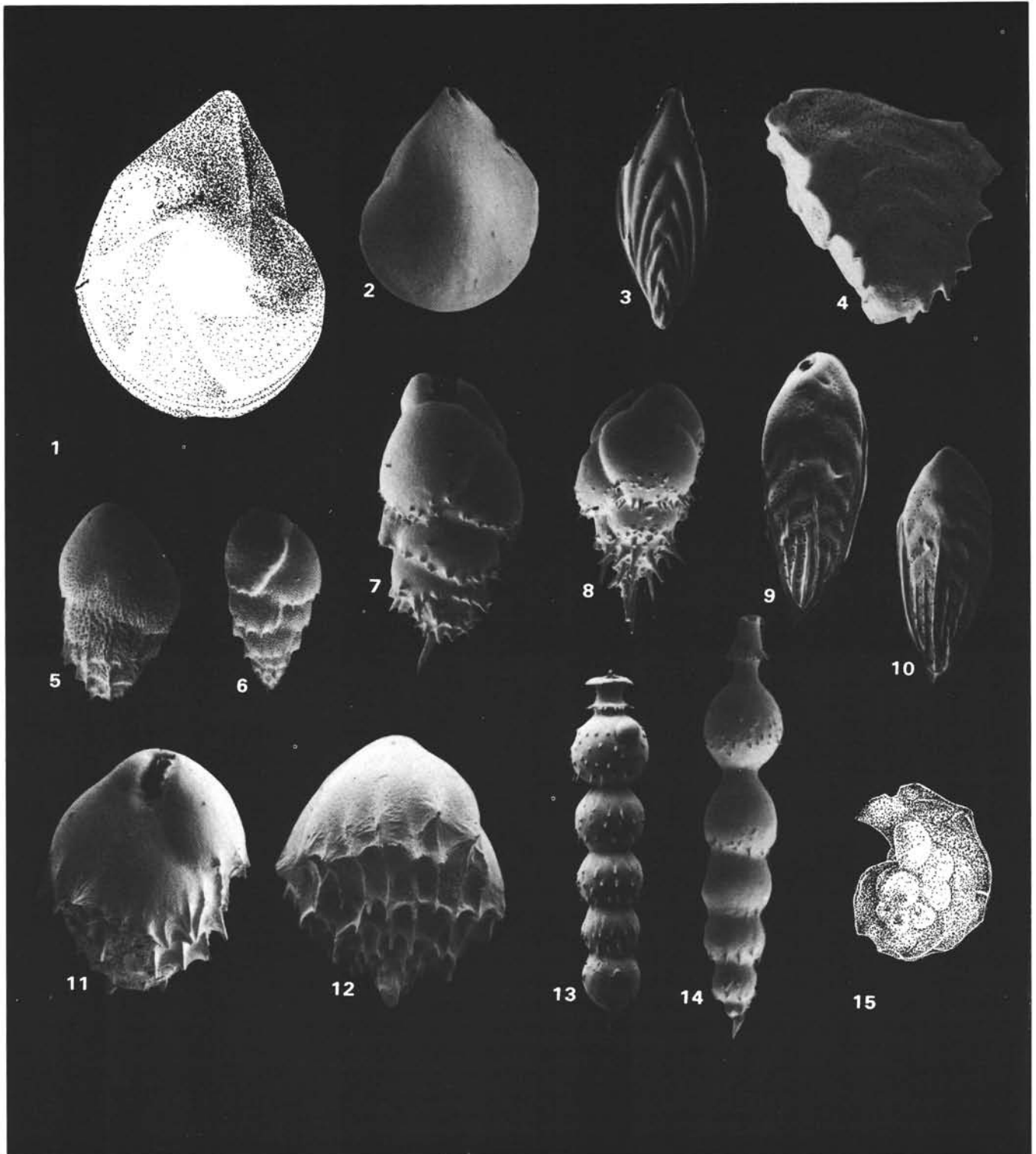


Plate 2. 1, 2. *Robulus nuttalli*, (1) $\times 110$, Sample 26, CC; (2) $\times 55$, Sample 26, CC. 3. *Plectofrondicularia jarvisi*, $\times 55$, Sample 13, CC. 4. *Ehrenbergina spinosissima*, $\times 110$, Sample 36, CC. 5, 6. *Bulimina spicata*, $\times 55$; (5) Sample 34, CC; (6) Sample 13, CC. 7, 8. *Bulimina aculeata*, $\times 110$, Sample 5, CC. 9, 10. *Bolivina aenariensis*, $\times 55$, Sample 13, CC. 11, 12. *Bulimina mexicana striata*, $\times 110$; (11) Sample 36, CC; (12) Sample 68, CC. 13, 14. *Stilostomella lepidula*, $\times 55$, (13) Sample 14, CC; (14) Sample 26, CC. 15. *Laticarinina bullbroki*, $\times 55$, Sample 42, CC.

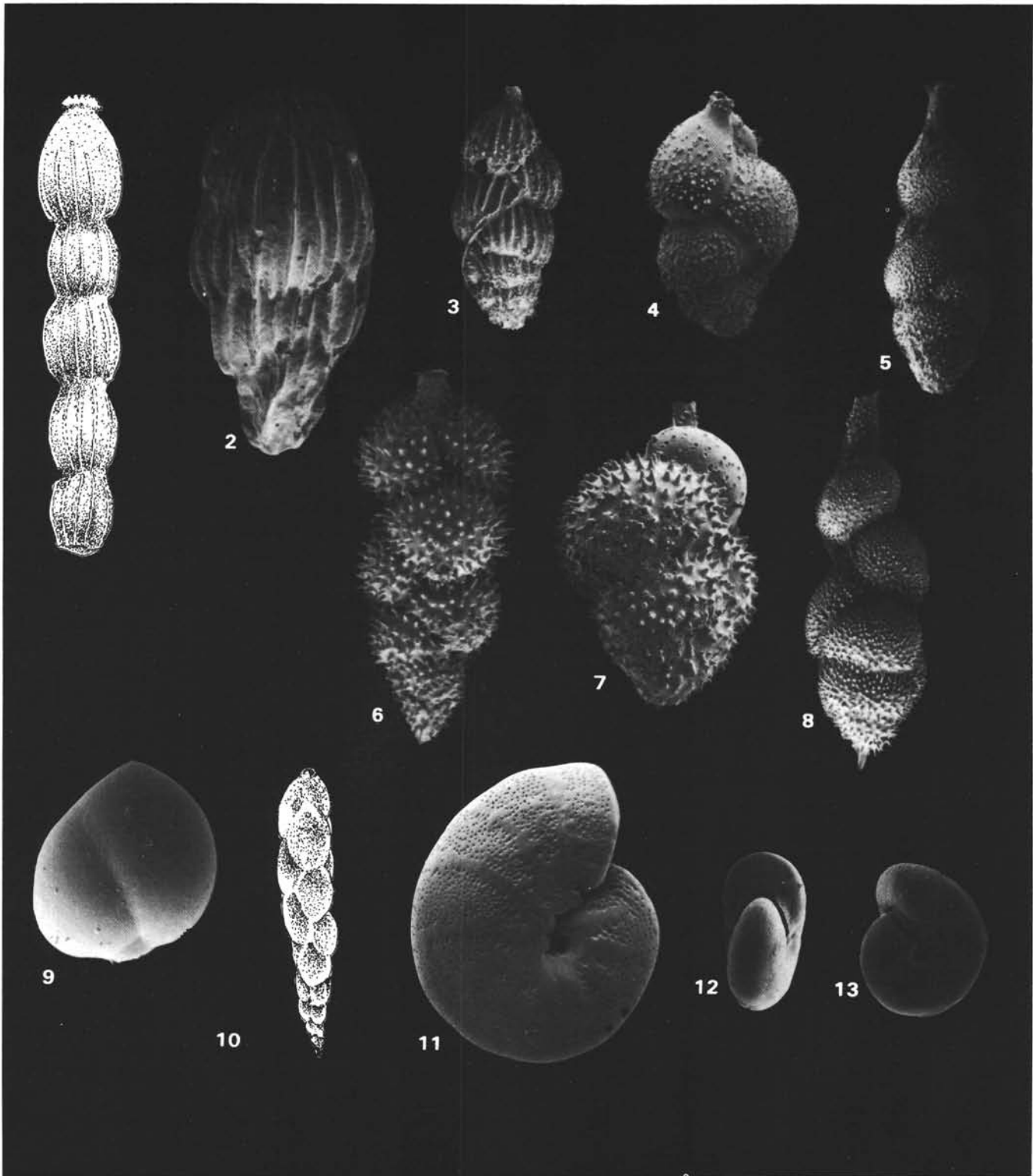


Plate 3. 1. *Nodosaria stiliformis*, $\times 110$, Sample 18, CC. 2. *Uvigerina schwageri*, $\times 110$, Sample 34, CC. 3. *Uvigerina peregrina*, $\times 55$, Sample 5, CC. 4. *Uvigerina auberiana*, $\times 55$, Sample 68, CC. 5, 8. *Uvigerina proboscidea*, $\times 110$, (5) Sample 34, CC; (8) Sample 14, CC. 6, 7. *Uvigerina hispida*, $\times 110$, (6) Sample 68, CC; (7) Sample 42, CC. 9. *Pleurostomella brevis*, $\times 55$, Sample 5, CC. 10. *Pleurostomella alternans*, $\times 110$, Sample 5, CC. 11-13. *Nonion barleanum*, (11) $\times 110$, Sample 36, CC; (12, 13) $\times 55$, Sample 36, CC.

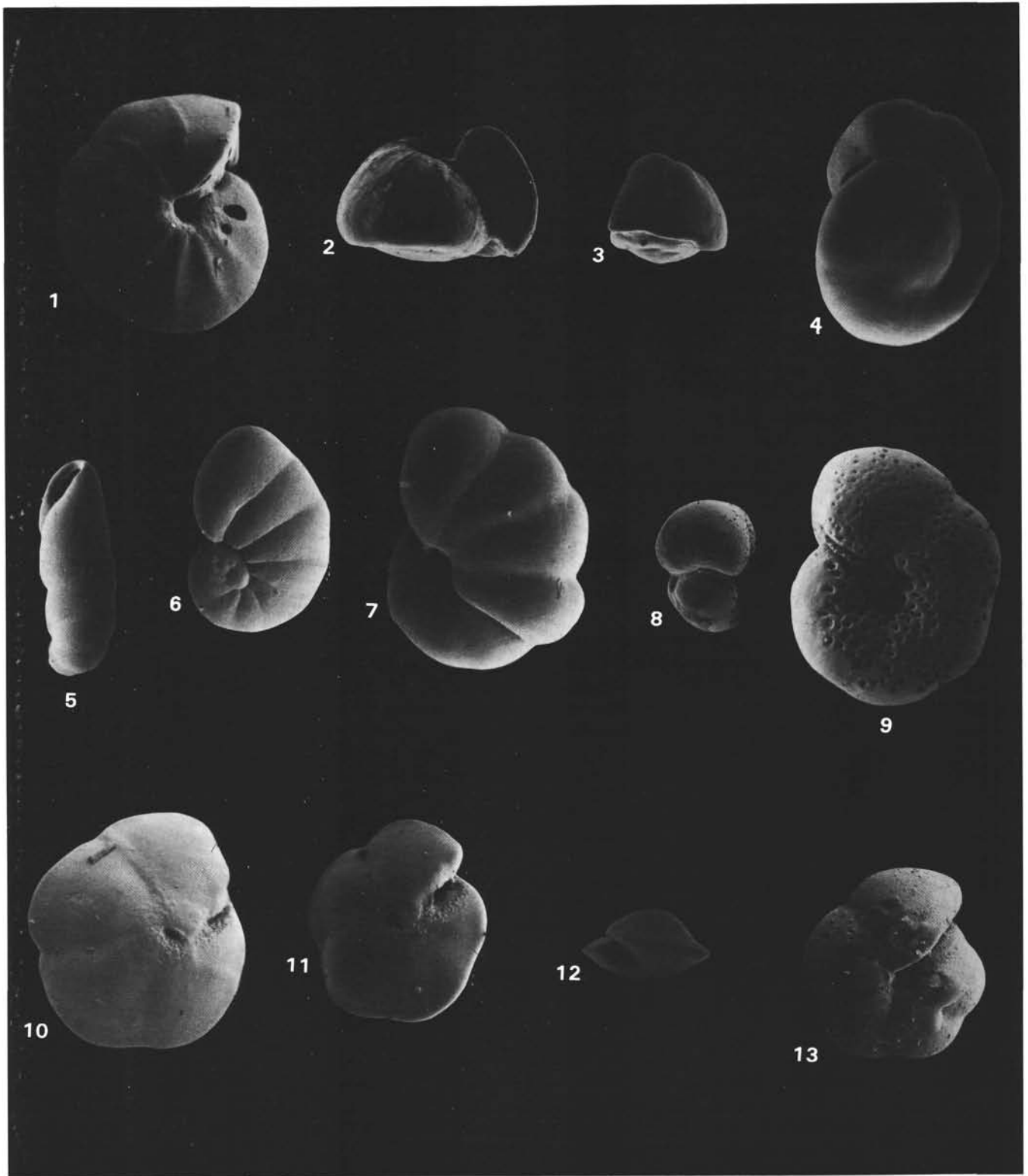


Plate 4. 1-4. *Gyroidina gemma*, $\times 55$; (1, 2) Sample 13, CC; (3, 4) Sample 26, CC. 5. *Cassidulinoides bradyi*, $\times 55$, Sample 42, CC. 6, 7. *Valvulineria humilis*, (6) $\times 55$, Sample 5, CC; (7) $\times 110$, Sample 42, CC. 8, 9. *Gavelinella semicibrata*, (8) $\times 45$, Sample 5, CC; (9) $\times 55$, Sample 5, CC. 10-13. *Oridorsalis umbonatus*, $\times 55$, (10) Sample 68, CC; (11, 12) Sample 13, CC; (13) Sample 5, CC.



Plate 5. 1-7. *Cibicidoides bradyi*, (1) $\times 55$, Sample 42,CC; (2) $\times 45$, Sample 36,CC; (3) $\times 55$, Sample 68,CC; (4) $\times 45$, Sample 14,CC; (5) $\times 55$, Sample 14,CC; (6, 7) $\times 55$, Sample 68,CC. 8. *Heterolepa kullenbergi*, $\times 110$, Sample 42,CC. 9, 10. *Planulina* sp. A., $\times 110$, Sample 36,CC. 11, 12. *Planulina* cf. *ariminensis*, $\times 55$, Sample 26,CC.