The name *Miliolina* or *Quinqueloculina seminulum* is one that has been almost universally adopted by English authors for the typical smooth-shelled *Miliola* with five visible segments. As a specific term, however, it has not met with the same acceptance amongst Continental rhizopodists. Though included by d'Orbigny in his first list of species, it never reappears in his subsequent works, nor, so far as I am aware, is the name ever employed in the memoirs of Reuss, Costa, Bornemann, Karrer, Gümbel, Stache, or Hantken. The reason may possibly lie in the fact that the description given by Linné, and the figures referred to in the works of the earlier naturalists, included too great a variety of forms to suit d'Orbigny's method of species-making; and succeeding authors found it easier to follow d'Orbigny, or to invent new names for trivial modifications not figured by him, than to trouble themselves about the comparative value of minor characters, or about precedence in nomenclature.

The following is the notice of the species in the 12th edition of the Systema Naturæ, 1767, vol. i. p. 1264 :—

"*Serpula seminulum*—791. S. testa regulari ovali libera glabra.
"*Planc. conch.*, t. ii. f. 1 ?
"*Gault. test.*, t. x. f. *s*.
"*Habitat in* M. Adriatico; *minuta*. Testa recidit a congeneribus quod libera fit nec adhæreat aliis corporibus, quamvis anfractus inter se uniti, et quod apertura in mea non conspicua."

In the 13th (Gmelin's) edition, 1788, some further particulars are supplied, together with additional references, namely, to a figure in Martini's Conchylien-Cabinet, 1769, vol. i. pl. iii. fig. 22, *a.b*, and to a description in Fabricius's Fauna Groenlandiæ, p. 376, No. 370.

The annexed woodcuts are accurate copies of the drawings referred to in the later edition.

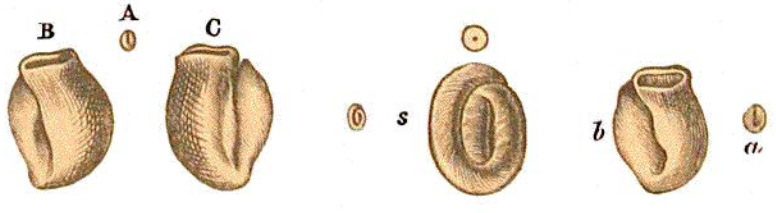

FIG. 2.—*Serpula seminulum*, Linné.

A, B, C. Copied from the figure in Plancus,—De Conch. min. not., pl. ii. fig. 1.
s. From Gaultieri,—Index Testarum, pl. x. fig. *s*.
a, *b*. From Martini,—Conchyl.-Cab., vol. i. pl. iii. fig. 22.

There is sufficient evidence that many of the earlier authors recognised, to some extent at least, the extreme variability of foraminiferal shells, and the Linnean name, as applied to a series of this sort, has in reality better right of precedence than if it had