

In 1854 Reuss introduced the generic term *Triplasia* for the three-sided *Nodosarina* of the Cretaceous formations; but subsequently, in 1860, having found quadrangular as well as triangular forms, this name was changed to *Rhabdogonium*.

The question to be determined is whether d'Orbigny's name or Reuss's—*Orthocerina* or *Rhabdogonium*—should now be adopted. Of the generic group, as now understood, there can be no doubt that the species which first received a name was d'Orbigny's *Vaginulina tricarinata*; and it is equally certain that, of the two species for which the term *Orthocerina* was used, the earlier in point of date, that which was subsequently referred to by the author as the typical form, does not belong to the present genus; and further that the recorded characters, if intended for the forms under consideration, which is by no means clear, are far from accurate. Add to this the fact that a number of almost identical generic names, *Orthocera*, *Orthoceras*, *Orthoceratium*, and others, were in general use, and had been applied to almost every variety of cylindrical or moniliform Foraminifera before *Orthocerina* was proposed, and the desirability of accepting the later term becomes manifest.

The genus *Rhabdogonium* differs from *Nodosaria* primarily in the angular contour of the test. The shell is straight or only slightly bent, usually triangular or quadrangular in section, the salient edges being sometimes carinate. The segments are convex and compactly fitted together, their angular margins are somewhat drawn down towards the primordial end of the test, and there is little or no external constriction at the sutures. The aperture is a simple circular orifice at the centre of the somewhat tapering or produced end of the final segment, sometimes situated in a short neck.

The genus is widely distributed, especially in the North Atlantic and the South Pacific; in the former it is usually found at depths of more than 300 fathoms, in the latter almost invariably at less than 300 fathoms. It occurs sparingly in the South Atlantic, but, so far as has been observed, is entirely wanting in the North Pacific. Geologically speaking, the genus makes its first appearance in the Lias, and becomes tolerably abundant in the Cretaceous period; it is met with also in various Tertiary deposits, but not as a prevailing type.

Rhabdogonium tricarinatum, d'Orbigny, sp. (Pl. LXVII. figs. 1-3).

Vaginulina tricarinata, d'Orbigny, 1826, Ann. Sci. Nat., vol. vii. p. 258, No. 4,—Modèle, No. 4.
Rhabdogonium pyramidale, Karrer, 1861, Sitzungsb. d. k. Ak. Wiss. Wien, vol. xvi. p. 19, pl. i.
 fig. 34.

D'Orbigny's Modèle, No. 4, though easily recognised, is not a satisfactory rendering of the characters of this species. In the model the oral end of the test is truncate and the aperture a simple perforation placed in one of the angles, at no great distance from the margin. Such specimens may sometimes occur, but far more commonly the test