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ACCEPTED 4 JANUARY 1994

*J. Paleont.*, 69(1), 1995, pp. 45–51  
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0022-3360/95/0069-0045\$03.00

## MIDDLE EOCENE TEREBRATULIDE BRACHIOPODS FROM THE BATEQUE FORMATION, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO

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**ABSTRACT**—Two species of terebratulide brachiopods are described from the upper part of the Bateque Formation (middle Eocene) on the Pacific coast of Baja California Sur, Mexico, *Terebratulina* cf. *Terebratulina louisianae* Stenzel, 1940, and *Terebratalia batequia* n. sp. *Terebratalia batequia* n. sp. is the earliest confirmed record of the genus *Terebratalia* Beecher, 1893, which has been an important component of Pacific brachiopod faunas through to the present day. The occurrence of *Terebratulina* cf. *Terebratulina louisianae* Stenzel is one of the earliest records of the genus from the west coast of North America. These brachiopods, like other elements of the Bateque invertebrate fauna, may record Eocene migration from the Atlantic to Pacific Ocean via the Central American seaway.

### INTRODUCTION

Eocene brachiopods have been described from the western margin of North America by a number of authors including Stanton (1896), Arnold (1908), Weaver (1942), Hertlein and Grant (1944), Squires (1984), and Squires et al. (1992). This paper includes the first description of brachiopods from the Bateque Formation, Baja California Sur, Mexico. Recently, other aspects of the paleontology of the Bateque Formation have been described by Squires and Demetrium (1989, 1990a, 1990b, 1992). The brachiopods were discovered and collected during the summer of 1991 by Demetrium, and additional specimens were collected by Demetrium and Squires in 1992. Consequently, they had not been described in the previous works of Squires and Demetrium.

The faunas described by Squires and Demetrium (1989, 1990a, 1990b, 1992) from the Bateque Formation have increased

knowledge of stratigraphic and paleobiogeographic occurrences for a number of taxa. The pharetronid calcareous sponge *Elasmosoma bajaensis* Squires and Demetrium, 1989, is the first Tertiary record of the genus from the Western Hemisphere, having previously been recorded from the Jurassic and Cretaceous of Western Europe. Additional Mesozoic relicts were subsequently identified by Squires and Demetrium (1992). The earliest records (Squires and Demetrium, 1990a, 1990b, 1992) of a number of taxa are in the Bateque Formation: the strombid gastropod *Platyoptera*; the bivalve *Nayadina* (*Exputens*); and the crab *Ranina*. In addition, the Bateque Formation includes first occurrences on the west coast of North America of the bivalves *Pycnodonte* (*Phygraea*), *Cubitostrea*, and *Cypraedia*. Of the two species of terebratulid brachiopods described herein, *Terebratalia batequia* n. sp. provides the earliest confirmed record of the genus *Terebratalia* Beecher, 1893, although Squires

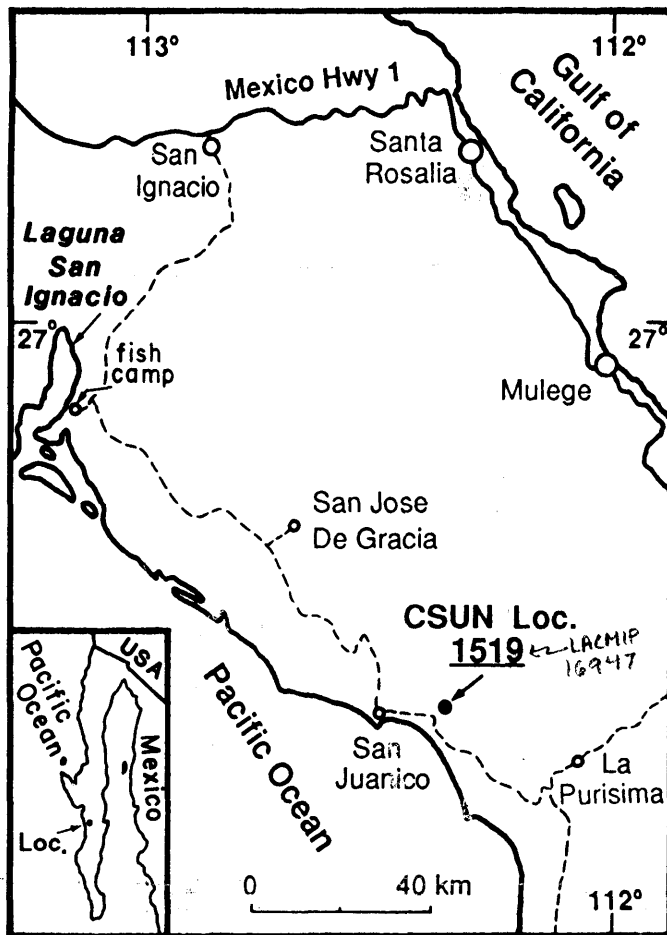


FIGURE 1—Index map to California State University, Northridge collecting locality 1519, Baja California Sur, Mexico. Dashed lines represent unpaved roads.

et al. (1992) figured a probable representative, *Terebratalia* n. sp.?, from the late early Eocene of Washington State; the occurrence of *Terebratulina* cf. *Terebratulina louisianae* Stenzel, 1940, is one of the earliest for the genus from the west coast of North America. The latter appears close to an Atlantic species described from the southern United States and may have migrated via the Central American seaway to the west coast of North America. It is interesting to speculate that *Terebratalia*, an important component of the Tertiary–Recent Pacific brachiopod fauna (e.g., Hatai, 1940), may be one of a number of Eocene immigrants, originating in the Atlantic Ocean.

#### BRACHIOPOD LOCALITY AND ITS STRATIGRAPHIC SETTING

The brachiopods described in this paper were collected from locality CSUN 1519 (Figure 1) in the upper part of the Bateque Formation (Figure 2) on the Pacific coast of Baja California Sur, Mexico, near the mouth of and on the south side of Arroyo Mezquital, at coordinates 3.6 and 67.4, 1.5 km south and 0.45 km east of the northwest corner of Mexican government 1:50,000 San Isidro (number G12A86) topographic map, 1983. There is a 40-m-high bluff at the locality, which is 0.5 km north of a secondary road that joins about 3 km to the west with the main road between the villages of San Juanico and La Purisima. There is a prominent eastward bend in the main road (near the mouth

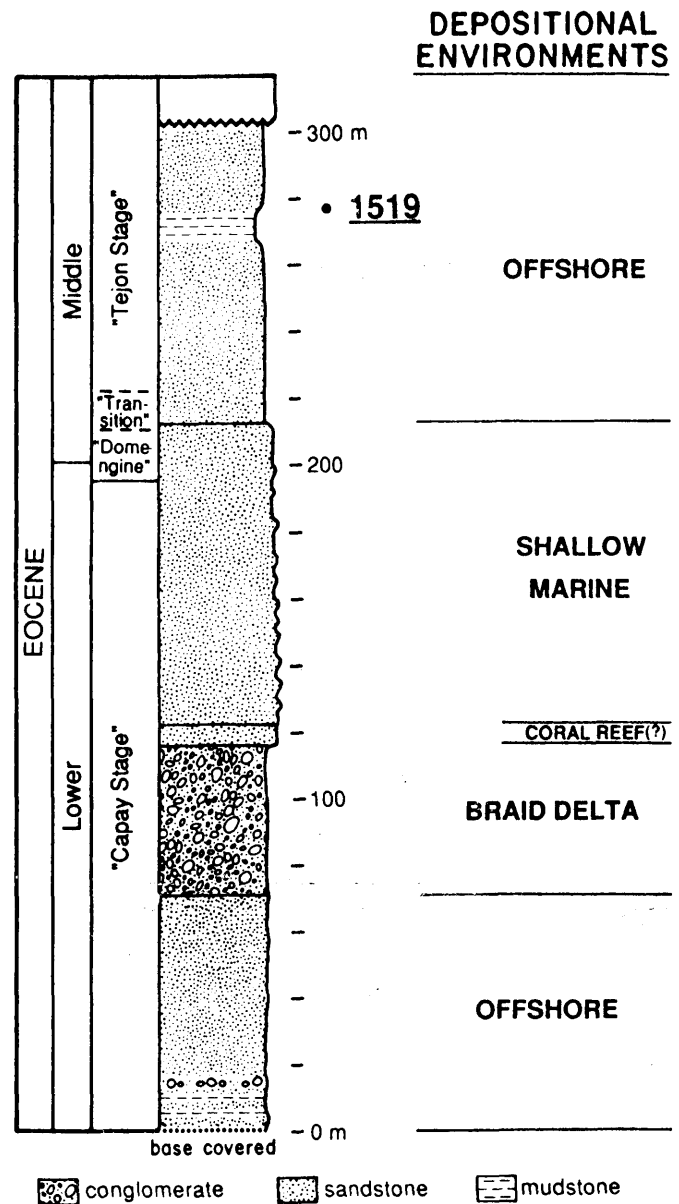


FIGURE 2—Composite columnar section of the Bateque Formation showing Pacific coast of North America provincial stages (from Squires 1987), stratigraphic position of locality CSUN 1519, and depositional environments. Adapted with permission, Contributions in Science, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (from Squires and Demetron, 1992).

of Arroyo Mezquital) where these two roads join. The locality is approximately 3 km northeast of where several new taxa of Eocene bivalves were found by Squires and Demetron (1990b) in the upper part of the Bateque Formation.

Only an 18-m-thick portion of the Bateque Formation is exposed in the immediate vicinity of locality CSUN 1519, and the formation is unconformably overlain by the middle Miocene Isidro Formation, which yielded a new species of clypeasteroid echinoid (Squires and Demetron, 1993). (For a generalized geologic map of the area, see McLean et al., 1985.) Locality 1519 is near the middle of the 18-m-thick exposure in a 1.5-m-thick interval of very fine grained sandstone that contains scattered lenses of fossiliferous conglomeratic sandstone. Most of the lens-

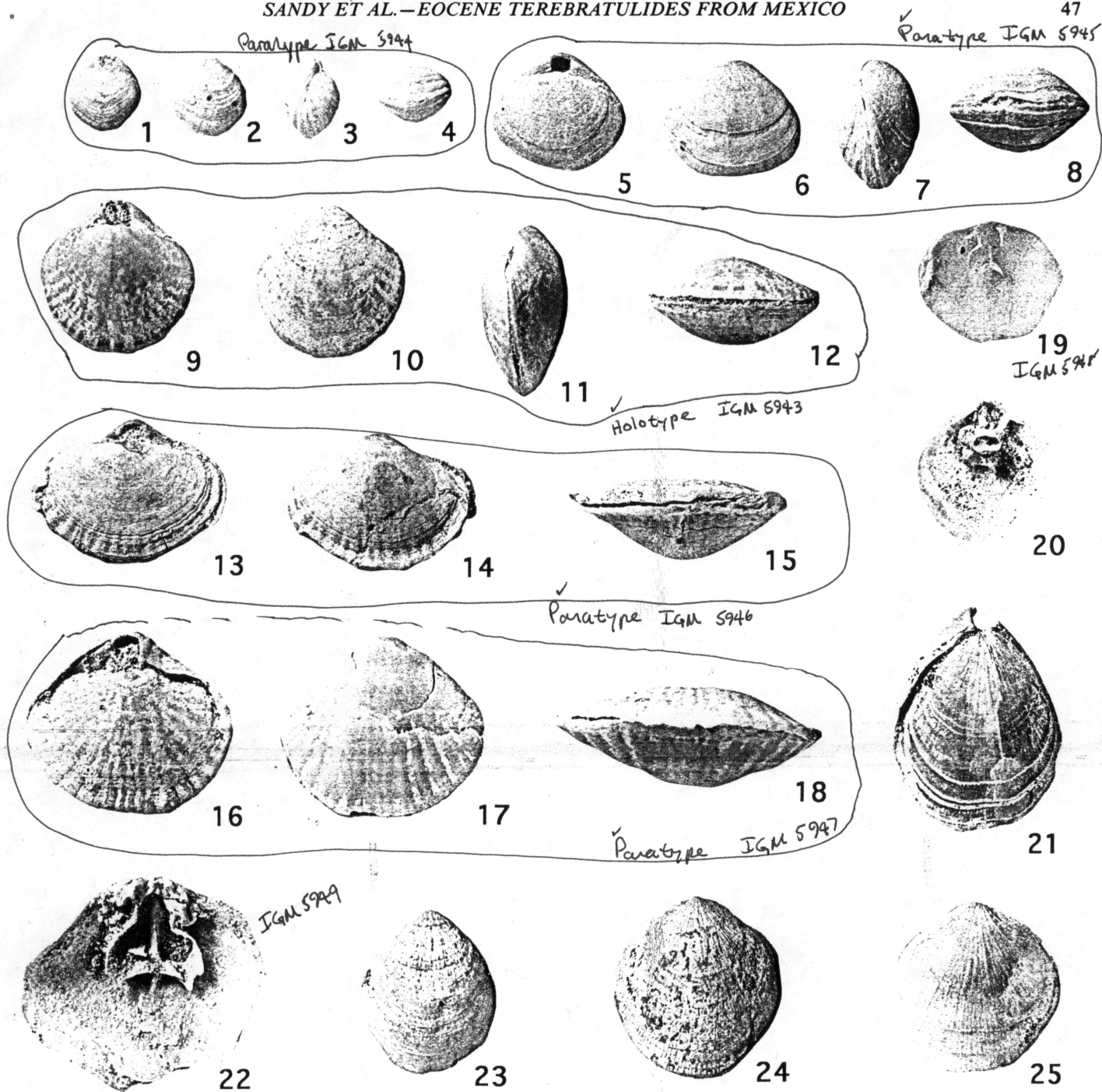


FIGURE 3—Middle Eocene brachiopods *Terebratalia batequia* n. sp. and *Terebratulina* cf. *Terebratulina louisianae* Stenzel, 1940, from the upper part of the Bateque Formation, near the mouth of Arroyo Mezquitil, Baja California Sur, Mexico (Figure 1), locality CSUN 1519. 1–19, 22, *Terebratalia batequia* n. sp. (1) paratype, juvenile specimen, brachial, pedicle, lateral, and anterior views, (IGM 5944)  $\times 2.5$ , 2, pedicle view shows two small borings referable to *Oichnus paraboloides* Bromley, 1981; (5–8) paratype, immature specimen, brachial, pedicle, lateral, and anterior views, (IGM 5945)  $\times 2.5$ ; (9–12), holotype, specimen with rounded outline, brachial, pedicle, lateral, and anterior views, (IGM 5943)  $\times 2.5$ ; (13–15), paratype, wide specimen, brachial, pedicle, and anterior views, IGM 5946, 13, 14,  $\times 2.5$ , 15,  $\times 2.7$ ; (16–18) paratype, large, wide specimen, brachial, pedicle, and anterior views, (IGM 5947), 16, 17,  $\times 2.5$ , 18,  $\times 3$ ; 19, brachial valve interior showing partly complete brachidium, IGM 5948,  $\times 2$ ; 22, brachial valve interior showing partly complete brachidium, IGM 5949,  $\times 3.3$ . 20, 21, 23–25, *Terebratulina* cf. *Terebratulina louisianae* Stenzel, 1940. 20, brachial valve interior showing partially damaged brachidium, IGM 5938,  $\times 2$ ; 21, external brachial view, IGM 5939,  $\times 2.2$ ; 23–25, brachial valve exteriors, 23, specimen showing signs of nonlethal predation attack just to the right of center of the valve, IGM 5940; 24, IGM 5941; 25, IGM 5942,  $\times 2.5$ .

es are directly above an erosional surface that truncates underlying beds with a slight angular discordance. The conglomerate clasts are very well rounded, up to 10 cm in length, and consist of a dark porphyritic igneous rock. Fossils are most common

in the upper parts of the lenses and locally form coquinas. In addition to the brachiopods, there are large benthic foraminifers (*Operculina* sp. aff. *O. cookie* Cushman, 1921a, *Pseudophragmina advena* (Cushman, 1921b), *Lepidocyclus* sp.), bryozoans,

bivalves (*Batequeus mezquitalensis* Squires and Demetron, 1990b, *Pycnodonte (Pegma) bajaensis* Squires and Demetron, 1990b, *Cubitostrea mezquitalensis* Squires and Demetron, 1990b), gastropod molds, and cidaroid echinoid spines. All of these other species are illustrated in the monographic work on the Bateque Formation by Squires and Demetron (1992). Approximately 50 percent of the specimens of *Terebratalia batequia* n. sp. are articulated. A few of the specimens of the pectinid bivalve *Batequeus mezquitalensis* possess their delicate auricles, and one large (10-cm-long) specimen of the gryphaeid oyster *Pycnodonte (Pegma) bajaensis* was found articulated.

Underlying the brachiopod-bearing interval is a 10-m-thick section of silty, very fine grained sandstone that is micaceous and bioturbated but contains no macrofossils. At the top of this 10-m-thick section, just below the erosional surface at the base of the brachiopod-bearing interval, there are parallel-laminated beds and locally, abundant vertical or near-vertical burrows. Overlying the brachiopod-bearing interval is a 7-m-thick section of gray mudstone to silty mudstone and macrofossils are rarely present.

Squires and Demetron (1990a, 1990b, 1992) interpreted that the upper part of the Bateque Formation in the Arroyo Mezquital area was deposited offshore below normal storm wave base and maximum storm wave base, with a large benthic foraminiferal-*Batequeus-Cubitostrea* community living in adjacent waters no deeper than 100 m. The paleoenvironment of the Bateque Formation in the vicinity of locality 1519 is similarly interpreted with one major exception. The community itself is not present, but transported faunal elements of the community make up most of the fossils in the brachiopod-bearing interval. The overall good condition and size-range of these unabraded, complete shells indicates that there was a short distance of post-mortem transport most likely by means of waves and/or currents associated with a large storm. Igneous rock clasts were also transported along with the shells. The articulated brachiopods may have lived among the shell and gravel rubble at locality 1519 whereas the broken specimens underwent post-mortem transport along with the rest of the macrofauna.

Calcareous nannofossils from the upper part of the Bateque Formation in the Arroyo Mezquital area (Squires and Demetron, 1990a, 1990b, 1992) indicate the middle Eocene *Discoaster bifax* (CP14a) Subzone of Okada and Bukry (1980), which correlates with the Eocene part of the provincial molluscan "Tejon Stage" near the CP13-CP14 boundary (Squires and Demetron, 1992).

Abbreviations are as follows: IGM = Instituto de Geología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City; USNM = United States National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.; L = length; W = width; T = thickness.

#### SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

Phylum BRACHIPODA Duméril, 1806

Class ARTICULATA Huxley, 1869

Order TEREBRATULIDA Waagen, 1883

Suborder TEREBRATULIDINA Waagen, 1883

Superfamily CANCELLOTHYRIDACEA Cooper, 1973

Family CANCELLOTHYRIDAE Thomson, 1926

Subfamily CANCELLOTHYRIDINAE Thomson, 1926

Genus TEREBRATULINA d'Orbigny, 1847

*Type species.*—*Anomia caputserpentis* Linnaeus, 1767, p. 1153.

TEREBRATULINA cf. TEREBRATULINA LOUISIANAEE  
Stenzel, 1940

Figures 3.20, 3.21, 3.23-3.25, 4.3, 4.4

cf. *Terebratulina louisianaee* STENZEL, 1940, p. 722, Pl. 34, figs. 10-16.  
? *Terebratulina tejonensis waringi* HERTLEIN AND GRANT, 1944, p. 77, Pl. 5, figs. 12-16, 21.

*Description.*—Elongate overall outline, brachial valves circular to elongate outline; brachial valve gently convex to inflated profile; large, rounded pedicle foramen, disjunct deltidial plates; anterior commissure incipiently to broadly uniplicate; ornament of numerous fine, bifurcating ribs; simple ring-like brachidium.

*Discussion.*—Specimens are all incomplete but exhibit typical characteristics of the genus *Terebratulina*, which are internally a simple calcareous loop and externally an ornament of fine ribbing.

The Mexican specimens are very similar in outline and style of ribbing to *Terebratulina louisianaee* Stenzel, described from near the base of the Cane River Formation of Louisiana, and therefore tentatively assigned to this species. Dockery (1986, fig. 1) reported the chronostratigraphic position of the Cane River Formation straddles the lower Eocene-middle Eocene boundary.

In size and outline, the specimens are comparable with other species of *Terebratulina* recorded from Paleogene strata of California. *Terebratulina tejonensis* Stanton, 1896, from the upper Paleocene through middle Eocene, appears to be more coarsely ribbed (Hertlein and Grant, 1944, p. 75-77, Pl. 5, figs. 5, 6, and text-fig. 19) than *Terebratulina* cf. *Terebratulina louisianaee*. The pedicle valve of *Terebratulina tejonensis* is sulcate (Hertlein and Grant, 1944, p. 76), as in the few Mexican specimens, which show a corresponding deflection of the anterior commissure of the brachial valves. One of the brachial valves of *Terebratulina* cf. *Terebratulina louisianaee* is inflated. It shows signs of a non-lethal predation attack (Figure 3.23). *Terebratulina honsyuensis* Nomura and Hatai, 1936 (in Hatai, 1940, p. 243, Pl. 2, figs. 29, 30) from the Miocene of Japan is very similar to *Terebratulina tejonensis* Stanton, 1896 (Hatai, 1940, p. 244). *Terebratulina tejonensis waringi* Hertlein and Grant (1944, p. 77-79, Pl. 5, figs. 12-16, 21) from the middle Eocene of California appears to be very similar to the material from Baja California Sur, Mexico, having a rounded brachial valve, with fine ribbing. Further investigation of Eocene representatives of described species of *Terebratulina* is necessary to determine if *Terebratulina louisianaee* and *Terebratulina tejonensis waringi* are synonymous. *Terebratulina washingtoniana* Weaver, 1942 (and in Hertlein and Grant, 1944, p. 83-84, Pl. 5, figs. 11, 17, 18), recorded from the middle Eocene of Washington State, U.S.A., appears very similar to *Terebratulina tejonensis waringi*, having a finely ribbed ornament and circular brachial valve. Hertlein and Grant (1944, p. 83) indicated that Weaver's species may be synonymous with forms previously described from California. Also relevant here are the forms recently figured by Squires et al. (1992, Pl. 1, figs. 6-8, Pl. 2, figs. 1-6) of *Terebratulina unguica weaveri* Hertlein and Grant, 1944, from the late early Eocene of Washington State.

The rounded outline of the brachial valve and fine ribbing distinguish *Terebratulina* cf. *Terebratulina louisianaee* from the Eocene-Miocene forms described by Cooper (1979) from Cuba. Cooper (1979) indicated that the brachidium of *Terebratulina? palmeri* Cooper from the Miocene of Cuba differed significantly from that in *Terebratulina*. The relatively coarse ornament and small size of *Terebratulina?* (Cooper, 1971) from the Eocene of Tonga makes a direct relationship with the Mexican specimens unlikely.

More recently Cooper (1988) revised and described a number of species of *Terebratulina* from the Paleocene of the East Coast of the United States. *Terebratulina alabamensis* Cooper (1988,