

collection, No. 3316, given by Sir W. Dawson. The suggestion that the St. John beds contained the well-known European *Pecopteris plumosa* was made long ago by Geinitz (1866), when he remarked that the supposed Devonian insects were on a specimen containing *Pecopteris plumosa* "welches Vorkommen dafür sprechen dürfte, dass dieser Schiefer der Steinkohlen formation selbst, nicht der Devon formation, angehört." Dawson (1882, p. 115) did not reply to this till 1882, when, however, he merely reiterates his own view that the plant comes from beds that he had proved to be Devonian, and though he acknowledges that the plant is like *P. plumosa*, he continues to consider the two as distinct species.

I took the Canadian specimens to Paris and there, through the kindness of M. Zeiller, was able point by point to compare them with true specimens of *P. plumosa*. In different parts of the leaves of this European species the Canadian ones could be matched entirely, and there seems not the smallest doubt that the plants from St. John are simply *Pecopteris plumosa*.

An important work on the species was published by Kidston (1897), to which reference should be made. He notes how variable the frond is, and illustrates a number of the different forms taken by the leaflets. Seward (1910, p. 404), also gives a valuable abridged account of the plant.

The species is widely distributed in the Westphalian, and is particularly common in the Middle Coal Measures of Britain.

Genus ALETHOPTERIS, Sternberg.

1826. *Alethopteris*, Sternberg, Versuch Fl. Vorwelt, p. xxi.

This genus is founded for the impressions of compound fernlike foliage. The leaves are large and tripinnate, the pinnules simple and undivided, thick, and usually oblong, and inserted on the rachis with a broad base, generally decurrent on the lower side and sometimes confluent from leaflet to leaflet. The median nerve is well-marked and extends the whole length of the pinnule, and on the lower side of the pinnule is generally prominent. The secondary nerves are simple, branching from the mid-rib at a wide angle, and running straight to the edge or dichotomising once; they are generally fine and close together.