

MYELOPTERIS TOPEKENSIS, N. SP.

A NEW CARBONIFEROUS PLANT.

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(WITH PLATES II AND III)

DURING the past sixty years a number of plants, variously described under the names of *Medullosa*¹ (1832), *Palmacites*² (1845), *Myeloxylon*³ (1849), *Stenzelia*⁴ (1864), and *Myelopteris*⁵ (1874), have been obtained from the Carboniferous of France, Germany and Great Britain, but, so far as I am aware, no representative of this group has been obtained heretofore from any locality in America.

Recently Professor C. S. Prosser has sent to me three small specimens of flattened stems from the upper Carboniferous of Topeka, Kansas. These fragments are about 6^{cm} long and lie in a matrix of calcite.⁶ One specimen represents the full width of the original structure and is 33^{mm} broad. A second has the edges broken off, but a natural extension of the curvatures of the sides shows the probable breadth to have been about 6^{cm}. Both of these specimens have been compressed into a flattened mass having a lenticular transverse section with a maximum thickness of 5^{mm} and 8^{mm} respectively. A third specimen, flattened to an irregularly lenticular mass, represents thin layers of plant residue adherent to the sides of the matrix, and obviously but a small part of the original structure. The dimensions of breadth here given represent very nearly the

¹ Cotta : Die Dendrolithen in Beziehung auf ihren inneren Bau. Dresden, 1832.

² Corda : Beitr. zur Flora der Vorwelt. 1845.

³ Brongniart : Tab. des gen. de vég. foss. Dict. Univ. d'Hist. nat.

⁴ Goepfert : Die foss. Fil. der perm. Form.

⁵ Renault : Étude du gen. de *Myelopteris*. Acad. de Paris 22 :—1875. [no. 10.]

⁶ I am much indebted to Dr. B. J. Harrington for determinations of the mineral constituents of these fossils.