

continually thinner walled toward the medulla. These strands usually have an accompanying mucilage passage on the outer face, and are in constant (?) process of formation toward the center. Within this zone, vascular bundles, distinguished by their broad scalariform vessels, appear, and increase in number toward the central region. The central axis consists of a rather broad tract of parenchyma tissue, through which the vascular bundles are distributed in large numbers.

From this point of view, and with due allowance for the effects of compression, it is possible to trace a striking similarity in several respects to a species of Myeloxylon described by Solms-Laubach,¹² and more particularly in certain respects to specimens of Myelopteris described by Williamson.¹³ The evidence is both clear and direct that this plant must be considered as belonging to that peculiar group for which the name Myelopteris, proposed by Renault, has been most generally employed.

In 1832, Cotta described certain fossils from the Carboniferous of Europe under the name of Medullosa, which has more recently become merged in that of Myelopteris. Williamson, however, informs us that Cotta's figures of *M. elegans* are wholly misleading, the structure being represented in a much exaggerated form, while his two species, *M. stellata* and *M. porosa*, remain too obscure to be depended upon without further evidence than has come down to us.¹⁴ The genus Medullosa, nevertheless, constitutes the basis of that group of plants which, passing under several names, has finally come to be known under that of Myelopteris.

In 1845, Corda assigned to his genus Palmacites two plants from the Coal Measures of Bohemia, under the names of *P. carbonigenus* and *P. leptoxylon*.¹⁵ An examination of Corda's figures shows that there is no very great resemblance, although

¹² Foss. Bot. 161, fig. 14A.

¹³ Foss. plants of the Coal Measures. Phil. Trans. 166: figs. 1, 3, 4.

¹⁴ Foss. plants of the Coal Measures. Phil. Trans. 166.

¹⁵ Flora der Vorwelt 40, 41. pl. 19, 20. 1845.