

ART. XLIV.—*Medusina Walcottii*, a Carboniferous Jellyfish;  
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THE purpose of this paper is to announce briefly the occurrence of jelly fishes in the Carboniferous limestone of Nebraska, and to propose a new species, *Medusina walcotti*.

In exploring the quarries and exposures of the State, certain quadripartite objects suggesting the form of jelly fishes have long attracted the writer's attention. They are large and coarse, and at first were assumed to be imitative concretions. However, the total number observed seems to strengthen the probability that they are of organic origin. In the fall of 1913, while conducting a field class through the Burlington quarries, located about two miles southwest of South Bend, they were noted again in a new locality, and three specimens were obtained. Two of these were unusual examples, and showed sufficient structure to identify them with the *Medusæ*.

Dr. Charles D. Walcott, to whom a specimen was submitted, concurs in the belief that these are jelly fishes. Since this group is composed so largely of water, in some species as much as 99 per cent, or more strictly speaking excessively watery gelatine, the wonder is that even traces of such delicate and perishable organisms are to be found. That they are found at all is due to the toughness of their filmy skins. Some of the larger and coarser varieties are even cartilaginous. Under especially favorable conditions, the impressions of jelly fishes are left in fine sands and mud. In this connection, it may be of interest to note that the United States Geological Survey has a collection of 9,000 specimens of jelly fishes. They are reported from the Cambrian, Jurassic, Permian, and Cretaceous. Their period of greatest abundance seems to have been the Cretaceous. We recall no reports of fossil *Medusæ* from the Carboniferous, outside of Nebraska. Those found in Nebraska are in upper Pennsylvanian strata. According to Mr. W. W. Stoner, mechanical engineer in charge of the Burlington quarries, these casts occur in considerable numbers. However, in a hurried visit but three were secured. The best of these is shown in fig. 1. They are of a good size, about 7 to 8 inches across (178 to 203<sup>mm</sup>). The convexity is 3 inches (76<sup>mm</sup>). The oral lobes must have been large. They are plainly indicated by the radiating angles of the mouth, aptly called the mouth-cross. The mouth-cross is distinctly shown in each of the three specimens from the Burlington quarry. Traces of the more delicate structures are wanting. Yet it is not impossible that some of them may be determined when a larger number of specimens is at hand. The difference in the geological horizon and the distance from regions productive of fossil *Medusæ* seem to justify the belief that these jelly fishes are new. Arrangements have been made for the care-

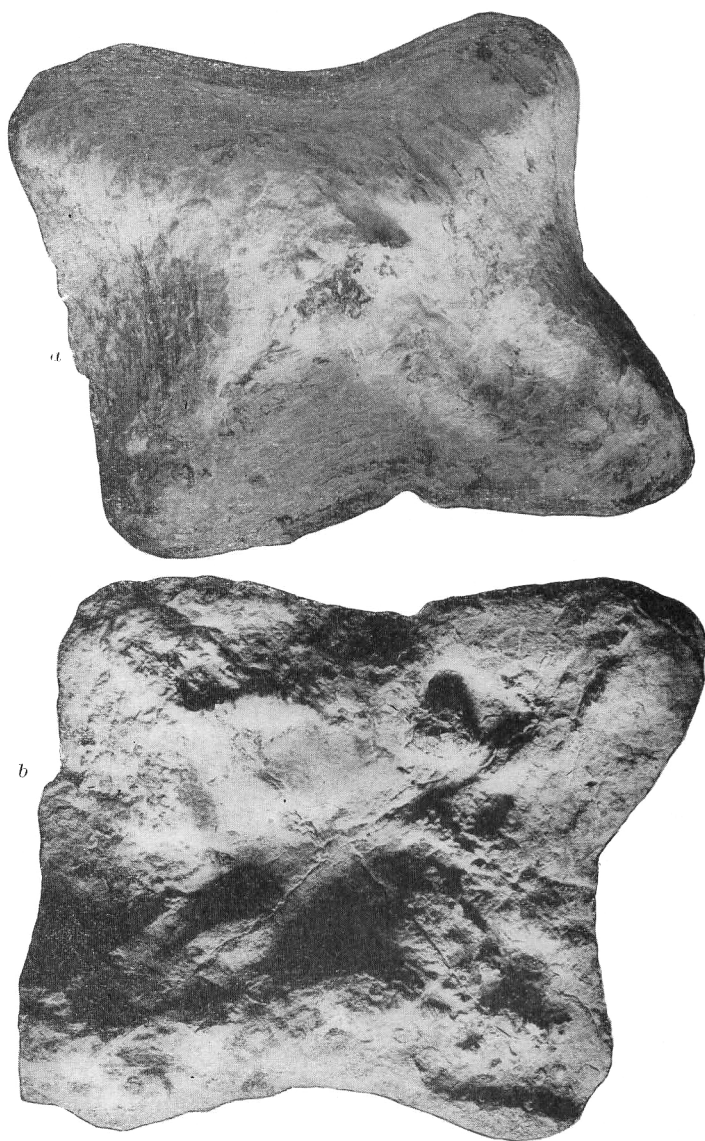


FIG. 1. *Medusina walcotti* sp. nov.  $\times \frac{1}{2}$ .  
*a*, apical view. *b*, oral view showing mouth-cross.

ful preservation of all specimens exposed in quarry operations at this place, and it is hoped that additional material and data may be secured.

Lincoln, July 20, 1914.