

Unpublished note, prepared for the
Herb. Socy of Montreal March 1886.

Bolbospites americanus

This species found abundantly in
some beds of the Chazy limestone
near the town of Montreal
was described by the late Mr
Billings in the Canadian
Naturist Vol IV 1859. He de-
scribes it as "a smooth hemispherical
lens usual with a slight pit at
center and having on top a
cune shaped notch formed by
hexagonal cells". He regards it
as probably a coral but was struck
with the fact that the cells in-
stead of being horizontal as in
corals are horizontal, or as he
says rather "slope upward on entering
the cone". He also notices a faintly
pitted structure and in a subsequent
note (Soyars Geology of Canada
865) mentions the fact that

The structure & change are crystalline, in the same manner with the Crinoids contained in the same rock, and quite different from the corals.

In the past autumn, Mr. Thomas Enry, assistant Curator of the Seth Allport Museum, in collecting in the quarry to the west of Montreal, was so fortunate as to find some layers ~~stratified~~ with these curious fossils, and the present note relates to the facts observed in examining these specimens, and in studying a number of slices of them.

The usual form is that denuded & billings, but in small specimens the base is less developed in proportion to the celluliferous top, and in old specimens the base becomes swollen at the sides, so as to project beyond the

Celluliferous case like the
Cap of an acorn.

With reference to the original
texture of the Jaspil, its crystalline
structure shows that it must have been
calcareous, but not solid, and
either cellular like the solid parts
of Olivoids, or calcareo-spiculate,
that it was most probably the latter
is rendered probable by the fact that
some specimens are slightly flattened,
and one was crushed when had
been partly crushed, ^{when recent,} as if it had
been of a semi-solid consistency.
The radiated structure is quite apparent
on some specimens, and appears to
consist of calcareous ^{spicules} ~~spicules~~ or needles
of a rough irregular form, which
lie parallel with the cells in the
celluliferous part, and run out
to the smooth sides in the basal
part, where there seems to be a

Slight different extreme layer was found their ends.

The round pit in the center ^{of the bar} of many currents itself ~~is~~ ^{upwardly} with a hollow axis which is very variable in size, and sometimes appears to be a fungus, ~~but~~ ^{around} which the organism has grown. In one case a small ~~central~~ ^{round} stem constitutes the axis, the Polypores having evidently grown along this. In other cases it would seem that the axis has been slender & perishable as if an internal horny Sclerotium or a filament of chitin or hyaline. No indication could be seen of true pores, ^{or canals} penetrating the mass, and the cells of the celluliferous cone are quite shallow and do not appear to reach ~~to~~ to the central axis.

Putting all these individuals together, it would seem probable that *Bolliopites* is an Alyoniarian polyp having a spicular skeleton like *Siphonia*, either with a very Sclerobasis or ~~being parasitically~~ as a fungus or zoophyte, & adopting these as its Sclerobasis.
 Possibly it may have existed in both ways, according to circumstances.

If this is the true explanation of the curious fossil, it will be of great interest, as showing the existence of a true Siphonian Alyonioid in the formation which in the North American Slavians may be said to contain the oldest corals, and these, so far as yet known, are of the tabulate group and of the small-celled Murchisonioid & the cells of which those of *Bolliopites* bear much resemblance.

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