

THE HOLOTYPE OF *COLUMNARIA ALVEOLATA* GOLDFUSS

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In his well known monograph, *Petrefacta Germaniae*, G. A. Goldfuss (1826, v. 1, p. 72, pl. 7a,b) described and illustrated a new coral species *Columnaria alveolata*. The holotype is from the "Kalkversteinerung vom Seneca See im Staate von Neu-York."

Almost constant controversy has waged about the proper taxonomic position of this species. Is it from an outcrop or is it a drift specimen? Is it conspecific with *Favistella stellata* Hall, or is it a Silurian or Devonian favositid?

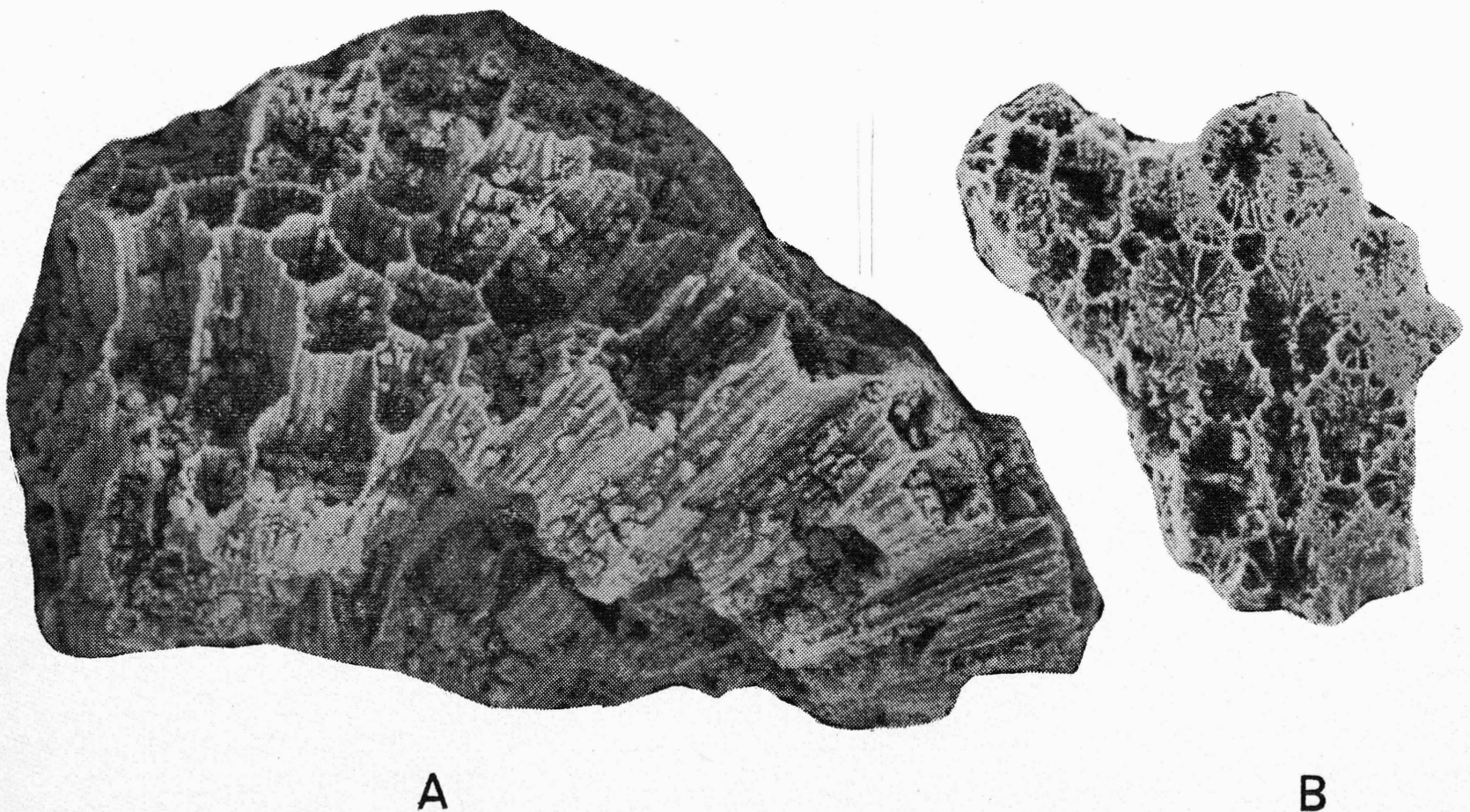
Through the courtesy of Dr. H. K. Erben of the Geologisch-paläont Institut, Bonn University, I was permitted to examine a fragment of the holotype. It is undoubtedly a drift specimen, for, in addition to being silicified and free from matrix, the interstices between the septa and broken down tabulae are filled with quartz sand and silt, apparently of glacial origin. The corallites are tetragonal, pentagonal, or hexagonal and range from 4 to 7 mm. in diameter. All the septa are lamellar and are of two orders

of which the major number 12 and extend to the axis. The minor septa alternating with the major also number 12 and form very short ridges not extending more than 0.5 mm. from the periphery. No trace of mural pores is present. The tabulae are badly broken down by silicification and subsequent glacial handling but the few remaining ones appear to be complete and relatively horizontal. No traces of dissepiments are present.

The specimen compares closely with specimens of *Favistella stellata* Hall (now placed in the new genus *Favistina* by Flower, 1961), but it is not well enough preserved for me to say more than that the species are congeneric and possibly conspecific.

REFERENCES

- FLOWER, ROUSSEAU, 1961, Montoya and related colonial corals: N. Mex. Inst. Mining and Technology, Mem. 7.
GOLDFUSS, G. A., 1826, *Petrefacta Germaniae*, v. 1, Düsseldorf.



TEXT-FIG. 1—A, View along side of fragment showing lamellar septal ridges and a few broken down tabulae; B, section cut across top of fragment showing major and minor septa. Both $\times 3$.