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THE COMPRESSION FLORA OF THE McLEANSBORO GROUP
(UPPER PENNSYLVANIAN) OF ILLINOIS

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The compression-impression flora of the McLeansboro Group in Illinois is dominated by the two species Neuropteris scheuchzeri and N. ovata while all other species are extremely rare. This flora, which is now known from 14 different stratigraphic levels, thus has the appearance of an impoverished Middle Pennsylvanian flora. Only a few Odontopteris species as well as the genus Subsigillaria indicate the Upper Pennsylvanian (= Stephanian) age.

Whereas the evolution of floras was very similar in North America and Europe during the Lower and Middle Pennsylvanian, the development of the McLeansboro flora differs significantly from the development of Upper Silesian floras in Europe where the Stephanian floras contain nearly no Westphalian elements. The flora of the McLeansboro Group resembles, however, the floras of the Upper Conemaugh and Monongahela of the Eastern United States, the differing development of Upper Pennsylvanian floras having now been established for the Midwest as well.