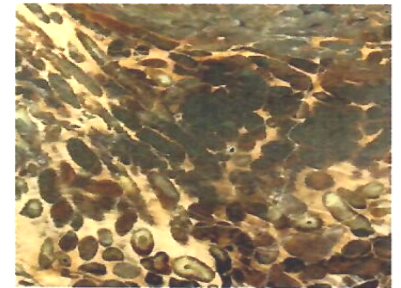




North Dakota State Fossil
Teredo –bored Petrified Wood
Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society
Bismarck, ND



Teredo-bored Petrified wood is North Dakota's state Fossil. It is found in 60 million year old Paleocene deposits, found in the southwestern area of the state. There are areas that were covered by the Cannonball sea, now ex-posed at the surface. Before fossilizing, it was drift wood (ginkgo, bald cypress, metasequoia, etc.) that had been drilled (bored) into by small worm like clams (Teredo), creating a Swiss-Cheese effect.



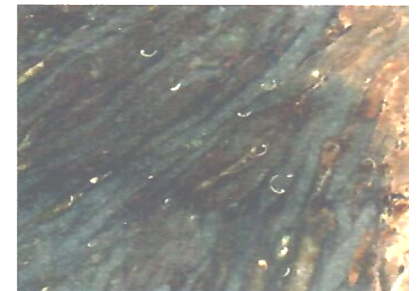
Teredo borings with woodgrain



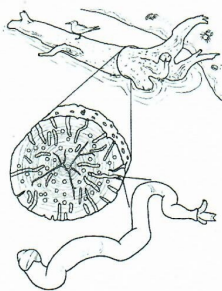
Modern day example

Part of the fossilization included filling the borings with sediment to crystals, often seen as a different color or texture. If slabbed, the tiny clams can even be seen in cross section as little white crescents. The clams, also called shipworms, still pose a problem for wooden boats or docks today.

Teredo-bored petrified wood was adopted in 1967, and added to the Smithsonian Institution's mineral collection. The selection was brought to the legislature by R. W. Carison of Bismarck, former president of the Central Dakota Gem and mineral Society, and H. A. Brady of Mandan, ND. State Representative W. G. Sanstead of Minot, ND proposed the state fossil selection in House Bill 933.



Borings with Teredo cross-sections



Magnification of Teredo

[https://www.dmr.nd.gov./ndgs/out of print/Newsletters/1993Spring.pdf](https://www.dmr.nd.gov./ndgs/out%20of%20print/Newsletters/1993Spring.pdf) (publication page 4 & 5)

http://ndstudies.gov/state_fossil

<https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndfossil/kids/FIND%20ISSUE%2011%20small.pdf>

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