



MINNA E. JEWELL

1892 - ?, UNITED STATES

Outstanding taxonomist of Nearctic freshwater sponges.

She also studied how acidification and groundwater-lake interactions affect both sponges and fish species in prairie lakes of Wisconsin.

She received her PhD from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (1918). She taught at the Thornton Junior College, the University of Wisconsin, and the Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University).

HERSTORY

Although Minna was a charter member of the Ecological Society of America, she never received recognition from this society nor any other limnological community during her lifetime.

TAXONOMY OF FRESHWATER SPONGES



For this work, she sampled 1400 specimens of 10 different species of sponge.

She described the **optimal habitat** for each species by determining the physical and chemical conditions in which each species was present.

As a **taxonomist of sponges**, she:

- Studied of the history of generic names
- Proposed a new taxonomic classification
- Outlined the typical taxonomic confusions

To date, the majority of recognized species of Nearctic freshwater sponges are reported from Jewell's work in Wisconsin.



Minna E. Jewell. (1935).
Ecological Monographs

RELEVANT CONTRIBUTIONS

Jewell, M.E. (1935). An ecological study of the freshwater sponges of northeastern Wisconsin. *Ecological Monographs*, 5, 461-504.

Jewell, M.E. (1939). An ecological study of the freshwater sponges of Wisconsin, II. The Influence of calcium. *Ecology*, 20, 11-28.

Jewell, M.E. (1942). Report on sponge spicules, App. 2 of Studies on Connecticut lake sediments. *American Journal of Science*, 240, 332-334.

Jewell, M.E. (1952). The genera of North American freshwater sponges; *Parameyenia*, new genus. *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science*, 55: 445-457.

LOOKING
FOR MORE?

You can find more information about her story and research at:

<https://blog.limnology.wisc.edu/2013/04/24/lean-in-to-limnology-a-history-of-aquatic-ecologists/>

<https://abbieernst.wixsite.com/limnolover/post/10-female-freshwater-scientists-you-should-know>