bulla, n.

Pronunciation:  Brit. /ˈbʊlə/, U.S. /ˈbʊlə/
Forms: Pl. bullæ.

Frequency (in current use): ❄️

Etymology: Latin = bubble.

1.

a. Pathol. A vesicle containing watery humour and causing an elevation of the skin.

 1877 L. A. DUHRING Pract. Treat. Dis. Skin 44 Bullæ are irregularly-shaped elevations of the epidermis, varying in size from a split pea to a goose-egg, containing a clear or opaque fluid.

b. Physiol. ‘The tympanic element of the temporal bone, when, as in the dog, it forms a large bubble-like appearance.’ New Sydenham Soc. Lexicon

 1873 ST. G. MIVART Lessons Elem. Anat. iii. 106 In many Mammals..it forms a large inflated structure termed a bulla.
 1881 ST. G. MIVART Cat 62 The posterior surface of the auditory bulla.

2. Zool. A genus of molluscs, with thin and fragile shells, inhabiting deep water.

 1847 W. B. CARPENTER Zool.: Systematic Acct. II. §917 The Bulla and Bullæa..have a small calcareous shell in which the spiral form begins to manifest itself.
 1851 M. ROBERTS Mollusca 201 The fragile shell of the solitary bulla is utterly inadequate to contend with either winds or waves.