

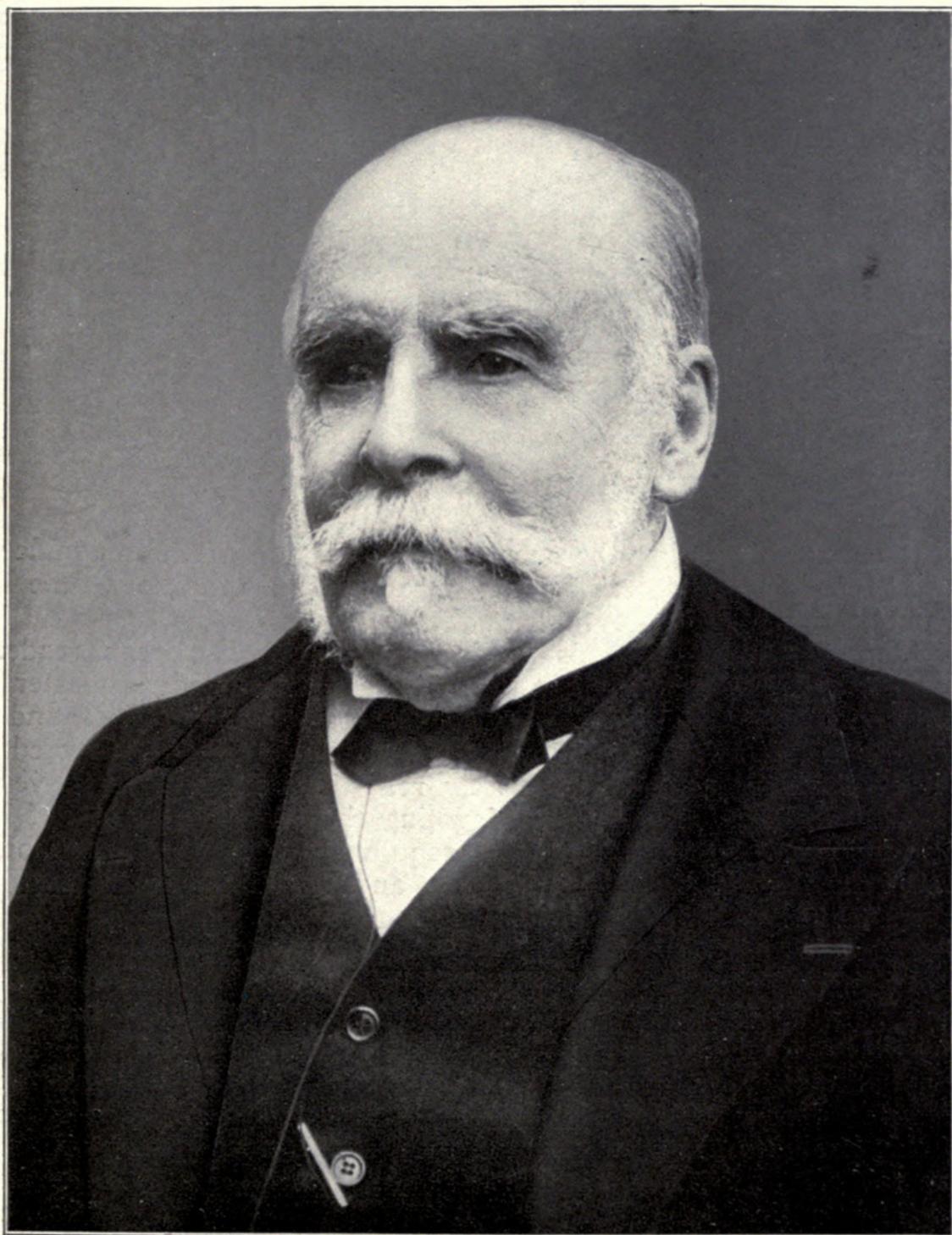
MYCOLOGICAL NOTES.

BY G. G. LLOYD.

No. 37.

CINCINNATI, O.

APRIL, 1911.



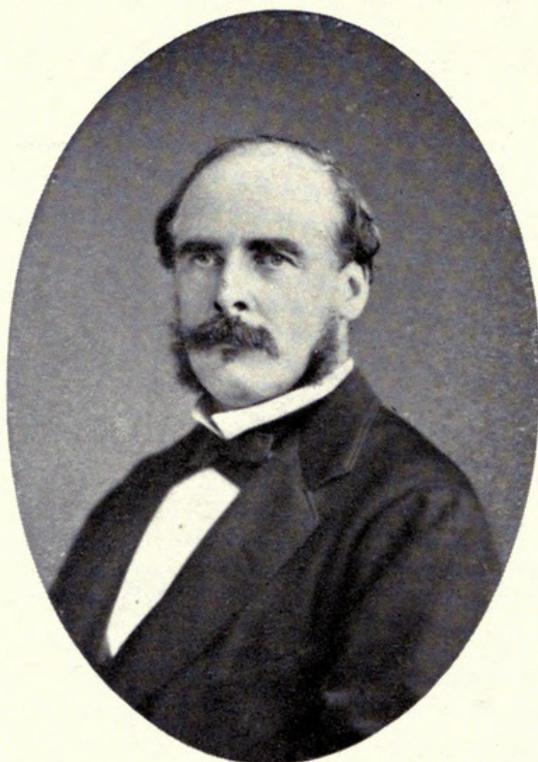
MONSIEUR ÉMILE BOUDIER.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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MONSIEUR ÉMILE BOUDIER.

It seems to me that the successful completion of the magnificent plates "*Icones Mycologicae*," by E. Boudier, is a propitious time for the publication of a photograph of the author.

Monsieur Boudier needs no introduction to European readers. For many years he has stood at the head, the acknowledged master of French mycology. He was born on the 6th of January, 1828, and is therefore now in his eighty-fourth year. His early life was devoted to trade as a pharmacist, but he wisely retired about twenty-five years ago, with a modest competency, devoting the remaining years of his life to his favorite studies. He has acquired a most thorough knowledge of the fungi that grow in France, and in addition is an artist of unusual talent.

There have been a number of good artists who were not good mycologists, who have issued plates of fungi, and several good mycologists who were poor artists. Monsieur Boudier is, in my opinion, the first man to combine both talents. His plates are the acme of excellence, both as to general appearance of the plants and the microscopic structure. Every little detail is brought out with absolute accuracy, and this has been at an expenditure of a world of patience and labor. I am told that Monsieur Boudier will often spend two or three days in making a single drawing. The "*Icones Mycologicae*," which has just been brought to a successful finish, comprises six hundred plates of French fungi, every one of them perfection. It is largely devoted to the Discomycetes, which were always favorites of Monsieur Boudier.

The study and work in mycology to which Monsieur Boudier devotes himself is purely as a recreation. He receives specimens from a large circle of correspondents in France, and is as actively engaged in the work to-day as he ever was. The various scientific societies of France have honored him with the highest honors at their command. The one that I think he cherishes the most was recently bestowed on him by the French Academy of Sciences. It was only last year, November, 1910, that he was elected a member of this institution in the grade "Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur." In America we do not realize what that means to a Frenchman. It is the crowning ambition of every man of letters or science of France to be accorded this rank, and it is one that relatively few ever attain.

We present on our first page the photograph of Monsieur Boudier, that was issued as a frontispiece on the completion of his *Icones*. It is an excellent photograph of him as he appears to-day. We present also at the head of this article a photograph that was made about forty years ago, when he began the study of mycology. Monsieur Boudier does not recall his exact age when this photograph was made, but he thinks he was between forty and forty-five years of age.

We congratulate Monsieur Boudier on the successful completion of his magnificent "*Icones Mycologicae*," and also on the honors that have resulted.

FUNGUS IN COMMERCE.

It is a true saying that one-half the world does not know how the other half lives. Mr. W. E. Barker, of New Zealand, enclosed in a recent letter to me a newspaper clipping which is reproduced below. I presume there is nothing strange about such a newspaper item in the section where the fungus is an article of commerce, but it is certainly worthy of remark that a fungus should be collected to the value of over a million and a half dollars, and its very name and use be unknown to the fungus students. I have written to Mr. Barker, asking that he send me a specimen of the fungus so that I may identify it. While I do not know, I rather suspect that what they are collecting so largely in New Zealand and shipping to China is the common Jew's ear, *Hirneola auricula-Judae*.

This fungus is common both in Europe and in America. It is not used to any extent as food in our country, but I was shown this same fungus in one of the Pacific islands, and told it was largely collected and shipped to China. It is probable that it is a staple food among the Chinese. The article is as follows, and is taken from the *Taranaki Herald*, Taranaki being a province of western New Zealand.

"FUNGUS.—No one has yet fathomed the mystery of fungus. We know what it is and where it comes from, but that is all. We know it is shipped away, but are ignorant of where it goes and what becomes of it. It may truly be said that this fungus industry was the first salvation of Taranaki, and very few people are aware of its magnitude or of the amount of money it puts into circulation. From 1870 to 1903 the Customs returns of New Plymouth show that £305,995 was used in the actual purchase of the stuff from settlers. In addition to this sum an equal amount was spent in labor in packing and in freight. In 1903 Mr. Chong (a Chinese merchant who specialized in the product) went to China, and the fungus business lapsed for a time; but from 1904 to 1909 £58,793 was paid. This, with labor and freight, has caused a total circulation of £700,000 in forty years—surely a very considerable work for one man."

PAUL KLINCKSIECK.



PAUL KLINCKSIECK.

It is only just, I think, to accord to Monsieur Paul Klincksieck due credit for the part he played in the production of Boudier's plates. Monsieur Boudier told me before the plates were issued that he had little hope of seeing them published, for to issue them in the manner they merited would involve an expense that he feared would be prohibitive. Monsieur Klincksieck was a man of intense nervous energy, and he had the courage to undertake the production of this, a work that would have appalled most publishers. When the publication of these plates was announced, I doubted if they would be published in the manner that such work deserved, but happily my misgivings were not fulfilled. Monsieur Klincksieck spared neither expense, labor, nor care in producing these plates, exhausting the possibilities of the highest lithographic art. As with Monsieur Boudier the creation of these plates has been a labor of love, so with Monsieur Klincksieck their issue was a matter of pride as a publisher. It is indeed unfortunate that he could not have lived to see the completion of the work.

From a monetary point of view, and Monsieur Klincksieck's chief interest lay naturally in this direction, Boudier's plates were not a

success. I think they barely paid the cost of production. But it is gratifying to know that they involved no loss, for when Paul Klincksieck had the courage to undertake their production in this expensive manner, he assumed the risk of a heavy loss.

I feel that Paul Klincksieck should be accorded all due honor for producing in such a superb manner the "Icones Mycologicae" of Boudier.

ANOTHER "FUNGUS," GONE WRONG.

Our figure 385 represents a growth that occurs on the living branches of the Southern cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). I was glad to get specimens from S. C. Edwards collected in North Carolina, for I wanted to investigate

its nature. I have seen it in the herbarium of Schweinitz, at Philadelphia. Schweinitz first called it *Merulius Cupressi*. In his next work he called it *Cantharellus Cupressi*, and he sent it to Fries, and Fries called it *Cyphella Cupressi*, and it so appears in Saccardo, vol. 6, page 674. Berkeley stated many years ago that it was an insect gall, but Saccardo did not seem to believe him, for he compiled it among the fungi.

From a cursory examination of Schweinitz's specimens I could not decide what it was, though I felt quite sure it was neither a *Merulius*, *Cantharellus*, nor *Cyphella*, as it figures in our fungal "literature." Upon receipt of these specimens from my correspondent, I was glad to be able to cut them open, and it did not take me long to decide that Berkeley was right, and that it is an insect gall, for the cellular structure is quite different from that we find in fungi, and in addition I found on the inside of each specimen a little orange grub. I sent specimens to Mr. Mel T. Cooke, who makes a special study of the galls, and he advises me as follows:

"There is but one species of gall reported on *Taxodium distichum*, and I

have specimens of that species. It is entirely different from the one you send me. The gall which you send is of insect origin without doubt, and apparently belongs to the genus *Cecidomyia*."

It therefore appears to be a "new species" of gall. As it is an "old species" of fungus, does the name hold good? I think our learned law-makers are silent on this point, though they give their "authority" to maintain just as bad blunders of the old mycologists, as, for instance, *Calvatia "cyathiformis"* and *Geoglossum "rufum."* Professor McGinty proposes to name it *Cecidomyia Cupressi* (Schw.) McGinty, according to celebrated "legal" principles.

Unnecessary Information.—Dr. Bruce Fink recently published a list of Boletaceae, which he informs us were largely determined by Murrill. As twenty-two out of the twenty-seven names have Murrill's name written after them, it was scarcely necessary to go to the trouble of stating who determined them.



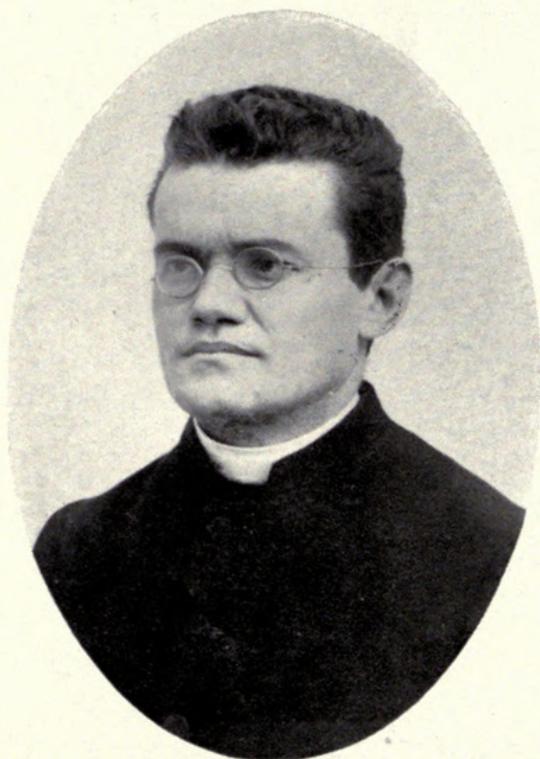
Fig. 385

B. D. GREENE.

When we wrote our article on *Cyclomyces Greenii*, we admitted that we did not know the identity of the "Mr. Greene" for whom it was named. Our ignorance in this respect has shocked the editor of the *Torrey Bulletin*, and he has kindly enlightened us. Our best thanks are tendered to Mr. John Hendley Barnhart for the information, as follows:

"Benjamin Daniel Greene was the son of a man who, in his day, was known as the wealthiest citizen of Boston, Massachusetts. He was born at Demerara, British Guiana, during a visit of his parents to that place, 29th December, 1793, and died at Boston 14th October, 1862. He was a graduate of Harvard; completed his education in Europe, and qualified himself for both law and medicine, but never engaged actively in the practice of either profession. He was a personal friend of Sir William J. Hooker, and many of his specimens are at Kew, as well as in nearly every other important herbarium of his day. He was one of the founders of the Boston Society of Natural History, and its first president; his herbarium formed the nucleus of the great botanical collections of that society. For seventy-five years and more an oriental genus of Rubiaceae, *Greenea*, has borne his name; it was named in his honor by Wight and Arnott, at a time when it meant something for two English botanists to name a genus for an American. I am sure you would be interested in the opinion of Asa Gray concerning the nature and extent of his botanical attainments, which you can find in the *American Journal of Science* (Series II, vol. 35, pages 449 and 450. 1863), or in Gray's *Scientific Papers*, edited by Sargent (vol. 2, pages 310 and 311.)"

THE REV. C. TORREND, S. J.



REV. C. TORREND, S. J.

The sympathies of the mycological world should be extended to

the Rev. C. Torrend for the deplorable persecution of which he has recently been the unfortunate victim. During the recent revolution in



Fig 386

Portugal, his monastery was ransacked, the greater part of his books, his microscope and photographic apparatus, and many of his specimens were destroyed by a fanatical mob. He was thrown in prison, and his life was even in danger for some weeks. At last he escaped through the intervention of the French Consul, the Rev. Torrend being a French subject. He is now in Holland, safe in a Jesuit institution. While his future

plans are not settled, he wrote to me that he would probably go to Brazil. Such of his books and specimens as were saved are in charge of the French Consul, and will be sent, for a time at least, to the Museum at Paris.

I reproduce above a photograph of the Rev. C. Torrend, and Fig. 386, a kodak view, showing him with a party of his students on their return from a mycological expedition.

Whatever may be the religious opinions of my readers, I am sure they will, with me, extend to Rev. Torrend our deepest sympathy in this trouble. In this age of so-called civilization, it is a shame that the inoffensive order of Jesuits should be singled out for persecution at the hands of an irresponsible mob, and the fact that it is done under the guise of "freedom" does not mitigate the crime. There are no more self-sacrificing or devoted scientists than are to be found in this same Order of Jesuits, and there are none that have added more to the general fund of scientific knowledge. Whenever you meet a Jesuit Father, you will find a man of the highest education, and I have always found them liberal and tolerant in all their views.

While Rev. Torrend is naturally much discouraged at present, having the results of his years of scientific work in Portugal so largely destroyed, when he gets to Brazil in a new field, we have no doubt he will return to his old love—mycology, with renewed ardor. Our best wishes go with him.

HEXAGONAS.

Having studied and photographed every type specimen of *Hexagona* in the museums of Europe, and having written a synopsis of the genus, I feel in position now to pass on the specimens of this family that I receive from my correspondents.

Mr. Edouard Luja, Congo Belge, has sent me a fine lot of *Poly-pores*, including three species of *Hexagona*. One species, *Hexagona Henschalli*, (cfr. Synopsis, page 11) had reached Europe, there being only a single specimen at Kew. Mr. Luja sends it abundantly. The pores are large and flaccid, with a pale pore surface. A section through the pore walls shows a thick, white, exterior layer (hymenial probably) quite distinct from the colored hyphae of the trama.

HEXAGONA POBEGUINI (Fig. 387, cfr. also Synopsis, page 18, fig. 295).—I thought I knew this species, having seen and photographed it in three different museums under three different names.

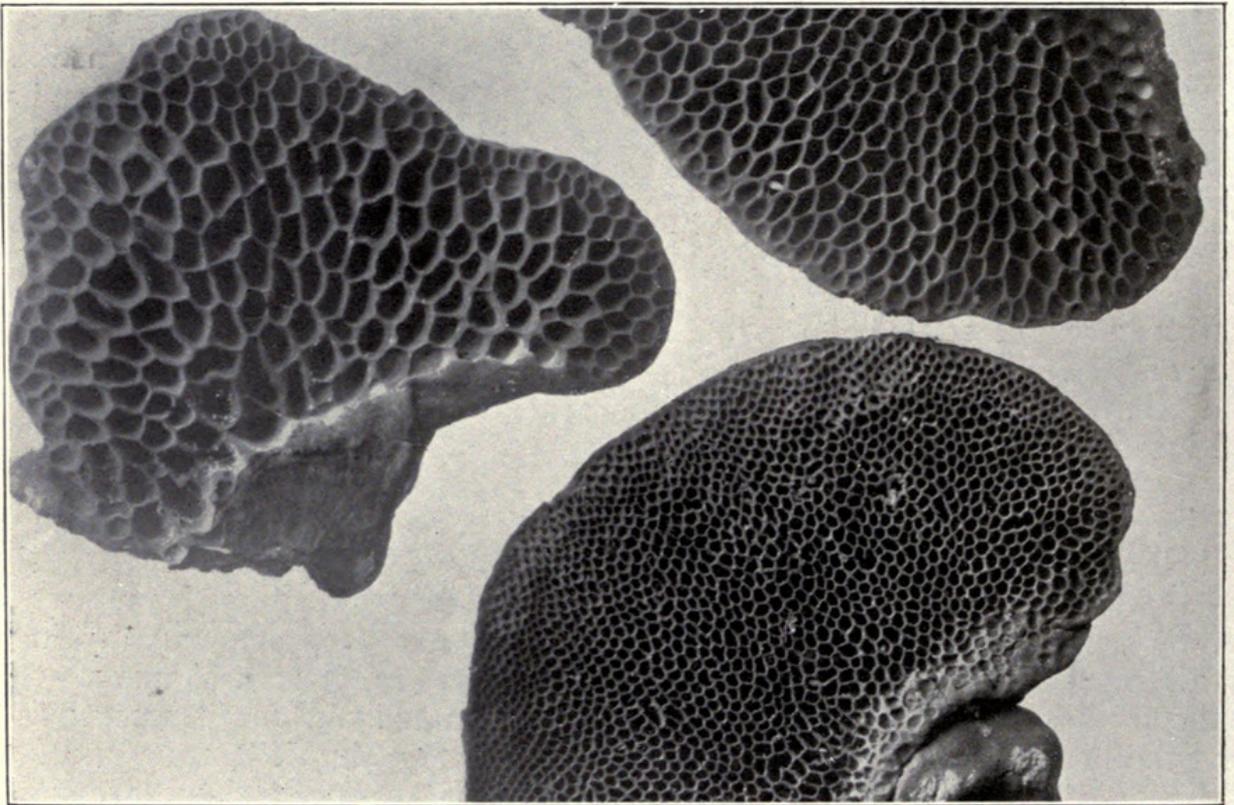


Fig 387

Hexagona Pobeguini.

but when I first saw Mr. Luja's specimens I did not recognize them. The truth is, I think, that the species was named and described from *old* specimens that have changed very much. Mr. Luja's are the first good, typical specimens that have reached Europe. When the plant is in good condition it is densely covered, both pileus and pores, by a brown, velutinous coat that disappears largely from old specimens.

Old specimens also become thicker and more indurated. The pores also vary much as to size, as shown in our fig. 387. Comparing this figure with the one previously published (Synopsis, Fig. 295) one would scarcely believe them to be the same plant. I feel assured now they are different ages of the same species, though my first impression was that Mr. Luja's plants were unnamed.

HEXAGONA DERMATIPHORA (Fig. 388).—Another species sent by Édouard Luja, Congo Belge, has the surface covered with a thin, compact, isabelline, velutinate film, such as is found in no other species. It might also be sought in the section *Velutinus*, but its other characters are so close to *Hexagona tenuis* that it is usually better



Fig. 388

Hexagona dermatiphora.

placed there. This covering disappears, or more properly is not developed, near the margin. The thickness, color, context, and pores are the same as those of *Hexagona tenuis*; in fact it might be classed as a form of this species. The pores are small, regular, with thin walls, and are dark colored, with a faint purplish cast. I would place it next

to *Hexagona tenuis*, differing from it and from all others in this section in the thin, velutinate pellicle that covers the pileus.

HEXAGONA SUBTENUIS.—In a personal letter received from the Rev. Bresadola, he claims that in my Synopsis of the genus *Hexagona*, I have taken too broad a view of the species *Hexagona tenuis*, that this species is confined to American territory, and that all the forms from India and the East should be referred to other species. I readily admit that *Hexagona tenuis*, in the sense in which I have taken it, is a

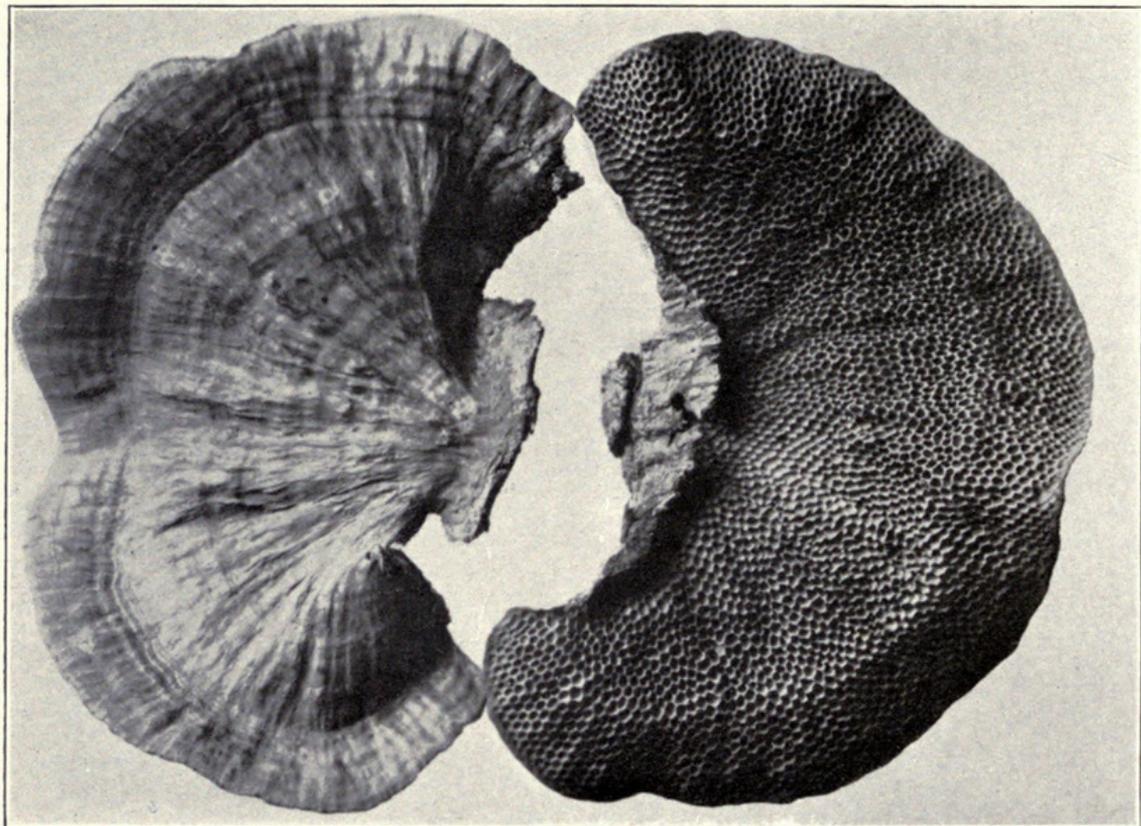


Fig 389

Hexagona subtenuis.

heterogeneous assembly of plants, and I suspect that with abundant material other species may be differentiated. I have just received from Col. K. R. Kirtikar, Bombay, nice specimens (Fig. 389) of what I have published as *Hexagona subtenuis*, basing the name on a specimen in Berkeley's herbarium. It differs from the type form of *Hexagona tenuis* not only in the more rugulose upper surface, but in the color of the pores which are distinctly *yellowish*. I think this is a good species, quite distinct from *tenuis*. We hope in time to get a clear idea of the distribution and forms, but we can not without abundant material.

Correction.—The last paragraph on page 460 was written by myself and does not belong to Professor McGinty's article, as the printer has made it appear. I assume no responsibility for Professor McGinty's opinions; in fact, do not always endorse them, and I certainly would not wish to place upon him any responsibility for my opinions.

LENZITES OCHROLEUCA.

Among a fine collection of specimens received from Col. K. R. Kirtikar, Bombay, India, was a curious ear-shaped, irpicoid form of *Lenzites ochroleuca* (Fig. 390). This species seems to be very common in the East and it takes many hymenial forms. Col. Kirtikar sends me three distinct types. We have considered the plant at length in our Synopsis of the genus *Hexagona*, but will have to refer to it in every "genus" we consider, for it is an *Irpex*, a *Hexagona*, a *Trametes*,

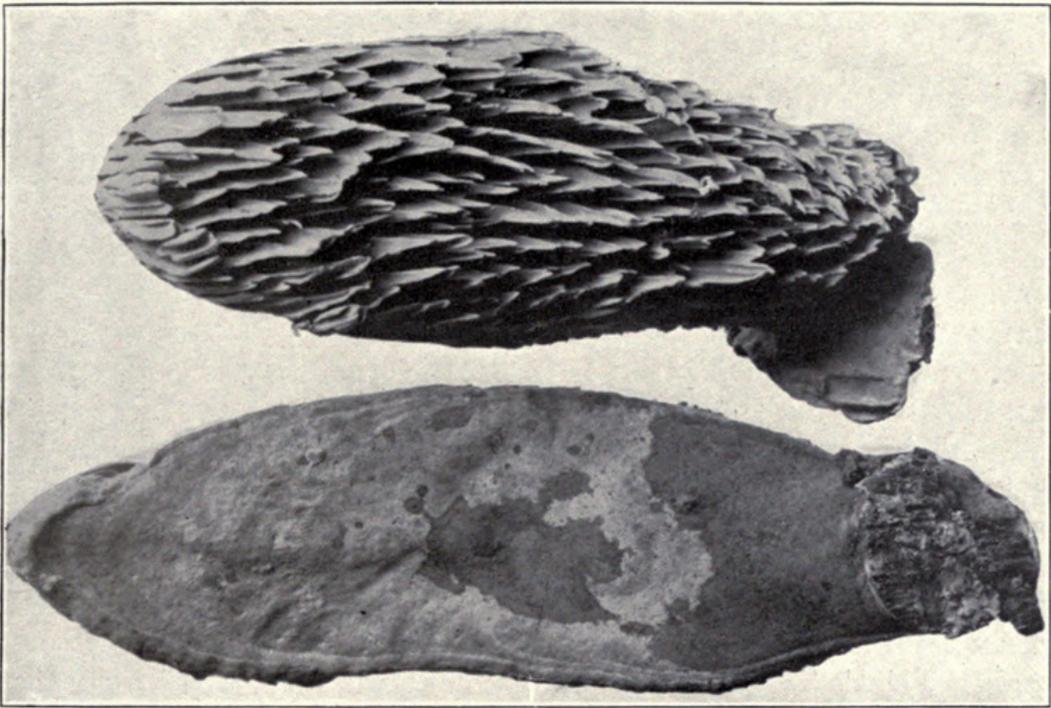


Fig. 390

Lenzites ochroleuca, Irpicoid form.

a *Daedalea*, and a *Lenzites* at one and the same time. Rarely do we find two collections the same as to the hymenium, and sometimes the *same specimen* presents three different types. The only constant thing about it is the color of surface, context and hymenium, the texture, and its distant plates or gills. Bresadola writes to me that I have included three species in the synonyms I gave. That may be true, but I see no means of distinguishing them except the hymenial configuration, and in this "species" hymenial configuration counts for nothing at all. The old mycologists who made a "new species" of every specimen they received, made of this about twenty species. Bresadola makes three species, but at present I make but one.

Apology.—My apologies are due and extended to Miss White for the printing of the specific name of *Phallogaster Whitei* in lower case type in my recent phalloid synopsis. We do not believe in printing personal specific names in lower case, notwithstanding that it was sanctioned by some mighty "law-makers" (cfr. *Myc. Notes*, p. 347). This list was made up while in Europe, and I had forgotten the specific name for this alleged species and directed it to be supplied at my home office. Unfortunately it was supplied in lower case.

NEWS FROM OUR LAWMAKERS.

Less than a year ago a galaxy of bright, legal stars were solemnly assembled at Brussels to make laws for the mycological world. The constellation was not as brilliant as had been planned. Of the fourteen men that had been appointed as a committee to make our laws for fungi, eight of them, viz: Boudier, Bresadola, Earle, Fischer, Masee, Patouillard, Saccardo, and Ward, were conspicuous by their absence. Ward died before the meeting. What reasons the others may have had for not appearing I do not know, excepting the two that I have since seen. I gathered from my conversation with them that they were not strongly enamored with the task of making laws for other people.

Professor Arthur was there, representing New York, but he had little to say. It is generally understood that the New York lawmakers received enough law at Vienna to last them the remainder of their lives. Those of the New York contingency at Vienna who had been appointed to the Brussels Congress, viz: Earle, Evans, and Mrs. Britton, were likewise absent. Professor Magnus was there, but after the first round of lawmaking his interest waned, and he was not much concerned as to the subsequent proceedings. Perhaps there were one or two others of the original mycological committee there, but my informant was not very clear on that point, excepting as to two, Atkinson and Maire. They were both there and were very much in evidence. What they lacked in numbers they made up in votes. I was told that Maire voted eleven times and Atkinson five or six on each proposition. At any rate they made a law that all fungi should have as a starting point Fries' Systema, except the Uredinales, Ustilaginales, and Gasteromycetes which begin with Persoon's Synopsis (1801). They must have made this law for other people, for neither of them observe it.

Atkinson has since published a Gasteromyces, "*Ithyphallus impudicus*" which Persoon called *Phallus impudicus*. This is not in accordance with their law, as the genus *Ithyphallus* was made by dividing the old Persoonian genus *Phallus* into two genera and by abandoning the original genus. Such work was always irregular, and since the Vienna Congress has been directly contrary to Art. 45 of the law which prescribes what shall be done in such a case and leaves no discretion whatever in the matter. Atkinson's use of the genus *Ithyphallus* is in direct violation of his law. It is possible that he was not altogether unconscious of this fact at the time.

Maire has since published *Lycoperdon fragilis* which is also contrary to law, for the plant had a specific name prior to *fragilis* and subsequent to Persoon, and *Lycoperdon fragilis* is not "starting with Persoon." Perhaps Maire did not know this.

One characteristic of lawmakers is that they are very willing to make for others laws which they can not apply themselves. I wonder if there was a man at Brussels (or if there is one elsewhere) who knows enough of the history of the Gasteromycetes to carry their nomen-

clature correctly back to the days of Persoon. It seems to me very illogical to make a law requiring others to do what the makers themselves can not or will not do.

MUTINUS BAMBUSINUS.

We present herewith an excellent photograph (Fig. 391) of *Mutinus bambusinus*, which we have received from Mr. C. B. Ussher, Straits Settlements. We published in our Synopsis of the Phalloids a figure (Fig. 26) of this species, but it is not as clear nor does it show the cellular structure of the stem as well as the photograph that Mr. Ussher sent. *Mutinus bambusinus* is widely spread in the tropics and appears to be the most common species of *Mutinus* in warm countries. It replaces there *Mutinus caninus* of Europe, and *Mutinus elegans* of the United States. It was originally named from Java, but is found in the Celebes, Brazil, and doubtless in many warm countries. It has appeared adventitiously a few times in the hot-houses at Kew. This tropical species is quite similar to *Mutinus caninus* of Europe, but has a larger, more pointed, more rugulose, fertile portion. The cells of the fertile portion are small, in strong contrast to those of the stem. The entire plant is red.

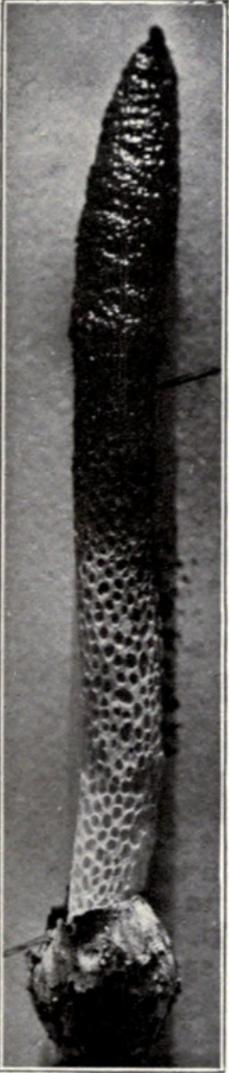


Fig. 391

In publishing Mr. Ussher's fine photograph, we would again call the attention of those residing in warm countries to the importance of *photographing their phalloids*. Only by means of photography will a correct knowledge of tropical phalloids ever be obtained. We trust that Mr. Ussher will not fail to photograph all he finds for the phalloids of his section have never been worked, and he will doubtless find some novelties as well as add to our knowledge of the distribution of the "old species."

Since this was written we learn that Mr. Ussher has accepted a position in Java. We are rather sorry, for Java phalloids are well known while those of Straits Settlements are hardly known at all.

The Type Locality.

The compilers of the present day are much concerned about the exact "type locality" of each plant. It is an easy matter of course (clerical work only) to look up the publication and record—"Type locality, Cuba," and it looks well, particularly when accompanied by the elaboration—"Distribution: known only from the type locality." Sometimes, however, in their compilation act they jump at conclusions and make some funny mistakes. Thus in North American Flora we are informed that *Polyporus Columbiensis* came from the "type locality, Columbia river, South Carolina" and that its "Distribution is South Carolina." The type specimen did not grow within twelve hundred miles of South Carolina, and I doubt if the author ever saw a specimen from South Carolina or from anywhere else, or would know it if he did, or for that matter if any one else would know it either. The "type" is a little, discolored remnant that should never have been named. It has never been recognized since it was "described" seventy years ago and never will be, and was never within a thousand miles of South Carolina. What rubbish they do scrape up and pass off for science nowadays!

A CURIOUS HOME FOR INSECTS.

While collecting at Albany I noted a *Myxomyces* (Figs. 392 and 393 x6) with curious chimney-like tubes, that on examination proved to be the home of some insect, some sort of a "fly," I judge. The *Myxomyces* is *Enteridium Rozeanum* (of Lister) or *Enteridium splendens* (of Macbride)¹ but what the "fly" is I do not know. The ways of nature are most curious. Here we have a fly that probably lays its eggs only in this particular species of *Myxomycetes*, and it is a plant that I have noted very rarely in the woods. The common

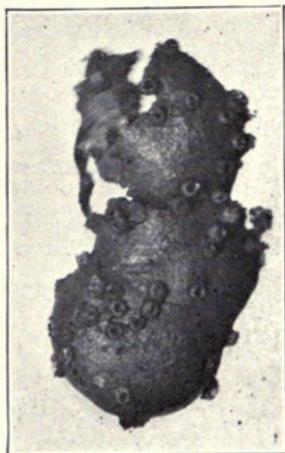


Fig. 392

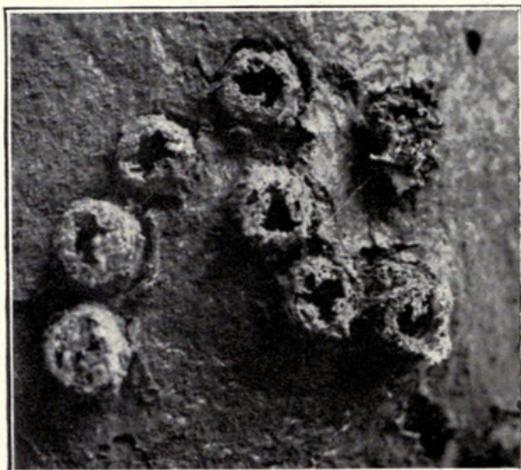


Fig. 393.

Lycogala Epidendrum, which is a very similar plant, was developed in abundance by the side of this *Enteridium*, and not a specimen was affected. A mycologist might confuse these two plants, but the fly knew them apart. While it may be a well known phenomenon to the entomologists who study such things, these "fly" cases in *Myxomycetes* seemed very strange to me.

MYXOMYCETES OF SAMOA.

On my trip to Samoa I have collected such *Myxomycetes* as came to my notice. As I have never worked with this family I have given them to Professor Macbride, who determines them as listed below. It is a pleasure to note, and a further evidence of the wide distribution of the species of fungi, that among those that grew in that distant island there is not a single "new species." The nomenclature is in accordance with Professor Macbride's book.

Arcyria punicea
Physarum sinuosum
Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa
Tilmadoche alba
Badhamia capsulifera
Hemitrichia Wigandii
Leocarpus fragilis
Stemonitis axifera
Stemonitis Smithii
Fuligo ovata
Trichia scabra

¹ It seems to me that our nomenclatural dreamers who try to make "rules" to bring about "uniformity" in nomenclature could get a lesson from Lister's and McBride's works. There is no question as to the plant or its history, but each uses a different name, in this and many other cases, because each thinks it should have a different name on its merits. After all nomenclature is at best only personal opinions, and you can not govern personal opinions by any laws.

A DECEPTIVE "FUNGUS."

Miss Mary Fitzgerald has been one of my most valued correspondents from the South, as she has the faculty of picking up odd things such as rarely reach me from other correspondents.

Recently she sent me some butterflies with yellow, club-shaped bodies growing from their eyes. Photograph increased six diameters shows these little bodies. Miss Fitzgerald took them for parasitic fungi, and so did I, particularly as I examined them through a microscope and found them composed of cells filled with granular matter that I mistook for spores.

As I know nothing whatever about parasitic fungi on insects, I sent them to Prof. Roland Thaxter, who is the world's authority on this class of fungi, and he advises me that the bodies are not fungi at all, but the pollinia of *Asclepias* which the insect attaches to its head when hunting the nectar of the flower.

These bodies are all attached by a slender base with the thickened, club-shaped apex extending in front. They look just like a little clavate fungus, and would be apt to deceive almost any one.

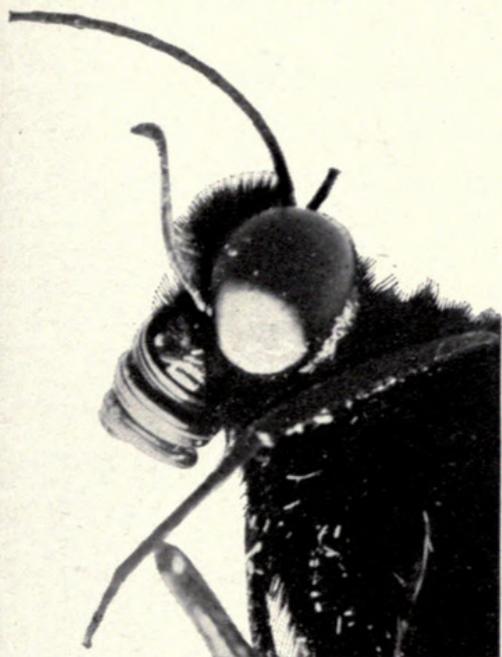


Fig. 394 (X6)

PHALLUS INDUSIATUS AS FOOD.

We reproduce an interesting letter received from Professor S. Kawamura, of the Botanical Institute of Tokyo, with reference to the use of *Phallus indusiatus* as food among the Chinese.

"Many times I have been asked about the scientific name of a fungus called "Chikuson" in Chinese, which is used for cooking in China. But I had not had occasion to see the plant and had not heard enough about it to know what kind of a plant it is. I have now had opportunity to examine the dry specimens of this plant, given to the Botanical Institute by Dr. Yabe, who had been in Peking for five years. From those specimens I have found they are the stems, veils, and cups of a fungus named *Dictyophora phalloidea*, Desv.

"At the same time I was surprised to know that this plant is really eaten by mankind, because this is a fungus considered as poisonous by many authors, and there is no mycologist to this day who tells of the use of this fungus. The smell of its mucous gleba is very detestable, and so distinctive that a specimen may be detected many feet away. Whenever I examined with a microscope the fresh specimens of this fungus I found in the spores many bacteria in motion. Because of this aspect I approve of the poisonousness of this fungus, though any poisonous ingredient was not yet isolated from fungus. And if these bacteria themselves would not be injurious to the human body, they would produce some poison by their powerful, decaying effect. Now I have learned that the very fungus considered as poisonous is used for food in China. It is said that the caps and stems, with the reticulate veils of the plant, are collected, leaving the volvas in the ground, and are carefully washed with water to free from the detestable mucous, and are then dried by exposure to the sun, and sent to the market."

I suppose no one need be surprised at what a Chinaman may eat, yet to an ordinary mortal a phalloid would be the last thing he would ask for as food. It is possible, however, that putting aside sentiment, phalloids may be as good food as rats, puppies, or bird's nests, which are all highly esteemed in China. It all seems to be a question of taste and education, and when you

come to think about it there is no more reason why a phalloid should not be eaten than why one should not eat Limburger cheese. The odors are very similar, and the writer has to acknowledge a weakness for the product of our German friends. I think, however, there is no possibility of his acquiring a taste for phalloids.

PHALLUS IMPERIALIS AND PHALLUS IMPUDICUS.

We extract the following from an interesting letter from Professor A. Jaczewski, St. Petersburg, Russia.

"I can not quite agree with your writings about *Phallus imperialis* and *Phallus impudicus* being the same species, for I find, at least in Russian specimens, a great and marked difference, not only in the color of the volva that has naturally no great importance, but in the shape of the egg and in the markings of the pileus. The egg of *Phallus imperialis*, instead of being globose as is that of *impudicus*, is elongated in shape and the reticulations of the pilei are much larger."

Our best thanks are returned to Professor Jaczewski for advising us as to these points. He also calls to our attention that the volva of *impudicus* habitually breaks and remains as a sort of cap or pileus. That is a usual character also in this country as I have frequently noted from specimens, and as Professor Peck noted when he discovered it was a "new genus."

Professor A. Jaczewski reports concerning specimens that I sent him from America that our American plant appears quite different to him from the European in the *reticulations of the pileus*. It is a question whether our American plant should be referred to *Phallus imperialis* or as a pink variety of *Phallus impudicus*.

THE PHALLOIDS OF MAURITIUS.

We extract the following from a letter from C. A. O'Connor, of Mauritius, and publish it, as it is such information regarding the distribution of phalloids that leads to a better knowledge of them.

"I have found hundreds of *Phallus indusiatus* growing in sugar cane fields during the rainy season. They were of different shape, size, and color. Some were as large as the form you named *P. mauritianus*; others only one-fourth and even less than this size. Several had their veil of orange color, others light pink, and many pure white. Plants were also observed with rudimentary veils; a few had their veils attached to the pileus instead of the stem as is usually the case. An appreciable difference was also noticed in the size of the meshes of the different forms. A name juggler would have had a fine opportunity of creating at least a half dozen new species. In the most common form the veil is rigid when the plants are collected a few hours after sunrise; as soon as the heat of the sun reaches them the veil hangs loosely down and has not the same appearance as that of a plant which has just ruptured its volva.

"I have not yet found any *Simblum periphragmoides* resembling Fig. 83, page 64 of the Synopsis of the Known Phalloids. Probably it is an abnormal form. Mr. Telfair, who sent the specimen to Hooker at Kew, was the proprietor of a sugar estate in the vicinity where I reside, and I would surely have come across this Phalloid if it grew commonly here."

It will be noted that Mr. O'Connor's observations confirm the opinion of Professor Petch that species based on the coloration, such as *Phallus multicolor* and *Phallus callichrous*, can not be maintained as distinct forms of the type, white form, *Phallus indusiatus*. He also confirms Professor Petch's observation that *Phallus Moelleri*, cfr, Synopsis, page 19, fig. 13, is only an early condition of the same plant.

Further Appreciation of Prof. McGinty.—"I greatly enjoy your breezy, independent way of writing, and pray convey to the redoubtable Professor McGinty my appreciation of his researches. I wish he might turn his mind to the Spermatophytes, for a great field is open to a man of his talents."—Extract from a letter from P.—Cal.



Lloyd, C. G. 1911. "Mycological Notes No. 37." *Mycological writings of C. G. Lloyd* 3, 493–508.

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