

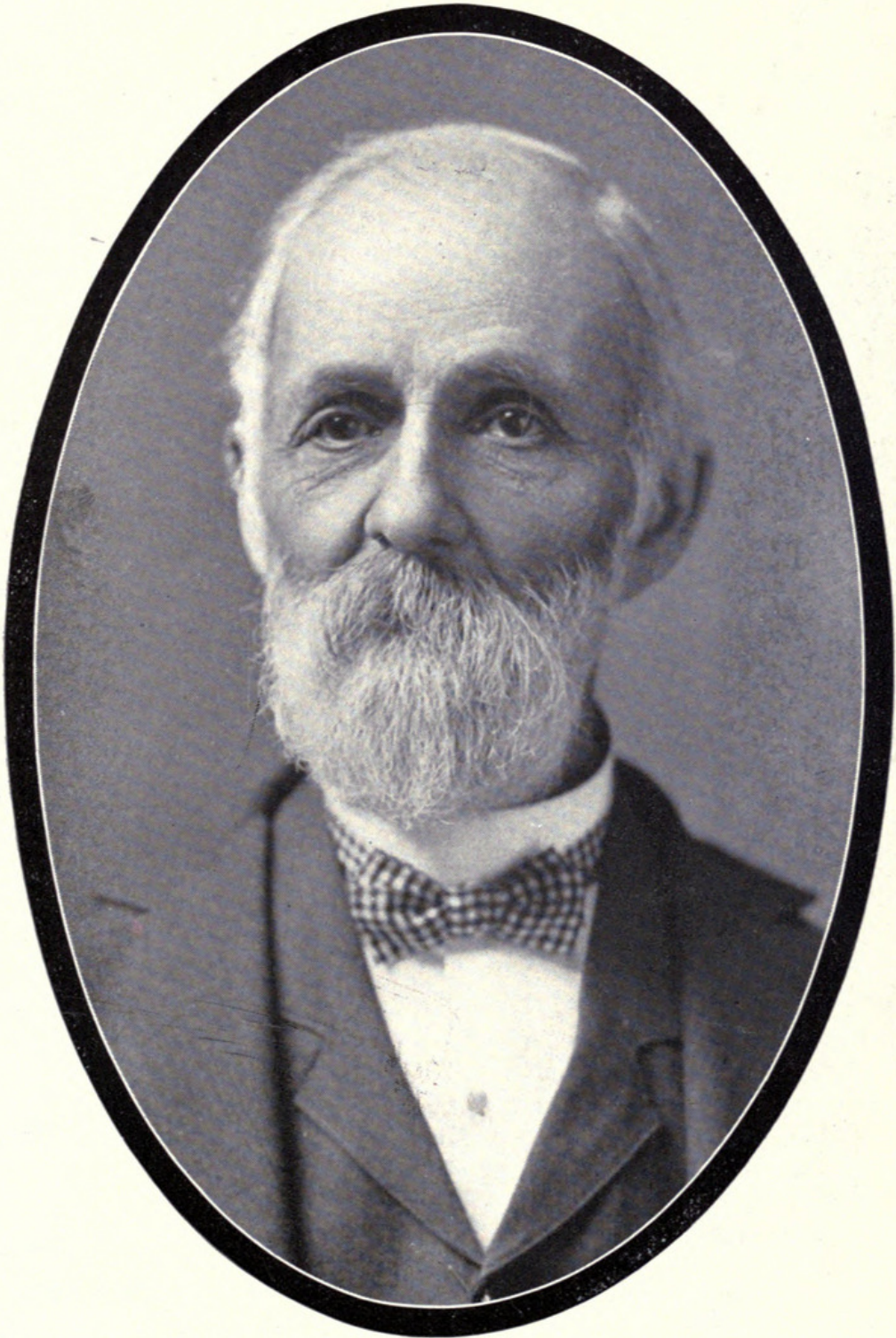
# MYCOLOGICAL NOTES.

BY C. G. LLOYD.

No. 39.

CINCINNATI, O.

DECEMBER, 1915.



J. B. ELLIS.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
AT LOS ANGELES

# Mycological Notes, No. 39.

After sleeping peacefully for three long years, we have again concluded to issue a number of Mycological Notes. Rather, we have not been asleep in the meantime, having published several monographs, but Mycological Notes has. This number will mostly be devoted to illustrating the rare plants and novelties that have lately reached us, viz.:

**CORDYCEPS CRAIGII**, FROM ERIC CRAIG, NEW ZEALAND.  
**CORDYCEPS AMAZONICA**, FROM REV. C. TORREND, BRAZIL.  
**CORDYCEPS NUTANS**, FROM J. UMEMURA, JAPAN.  
**CORDYCEPS ROBERTSII**, FROM GEORGE BROWN, NEW ZEALAND.  
**CORDYCEPS SOBOLIFERA**, FROM S. KAWAMURA, JAPAN.  
**CORDYCEPS MELOLONTHAE**, FROM DR. M. S. WHETSTONE, MINNESOTA.  
**BOTRYTIS (SP.)**, FROM B. T. HARVEY, COLORADO.  
**POLYPORUS MYLITAE**, FROM E. CHEEL, AUSTRALIA.  
**XYLARIA AXIFERA**, FROM REV. C. TORREND, BRAZIL.  
**EXIDIA PURPUREO-CINEREA**, FROM MISS A. V. DUTHIE, SOUTH AFRICA.  
**EXIDIA CAESPITOSA**, FROM MISS A. V. DUTHIE, SOUTH AFRICA.  
**STROBILOMYCES PALLIDUS**, FROM F. A. WOLF, ALABAMA.  
**ARACHNION SCLERODERMA**, FROM MISS A. V. DUTHIE, SOUTH AFRICA.  
**SEBACINA DENDROIDEA**, PHOTOGRAPH FROM BURTT LEEPER, SALEM, OHIO.

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## J. B. ELLIS.

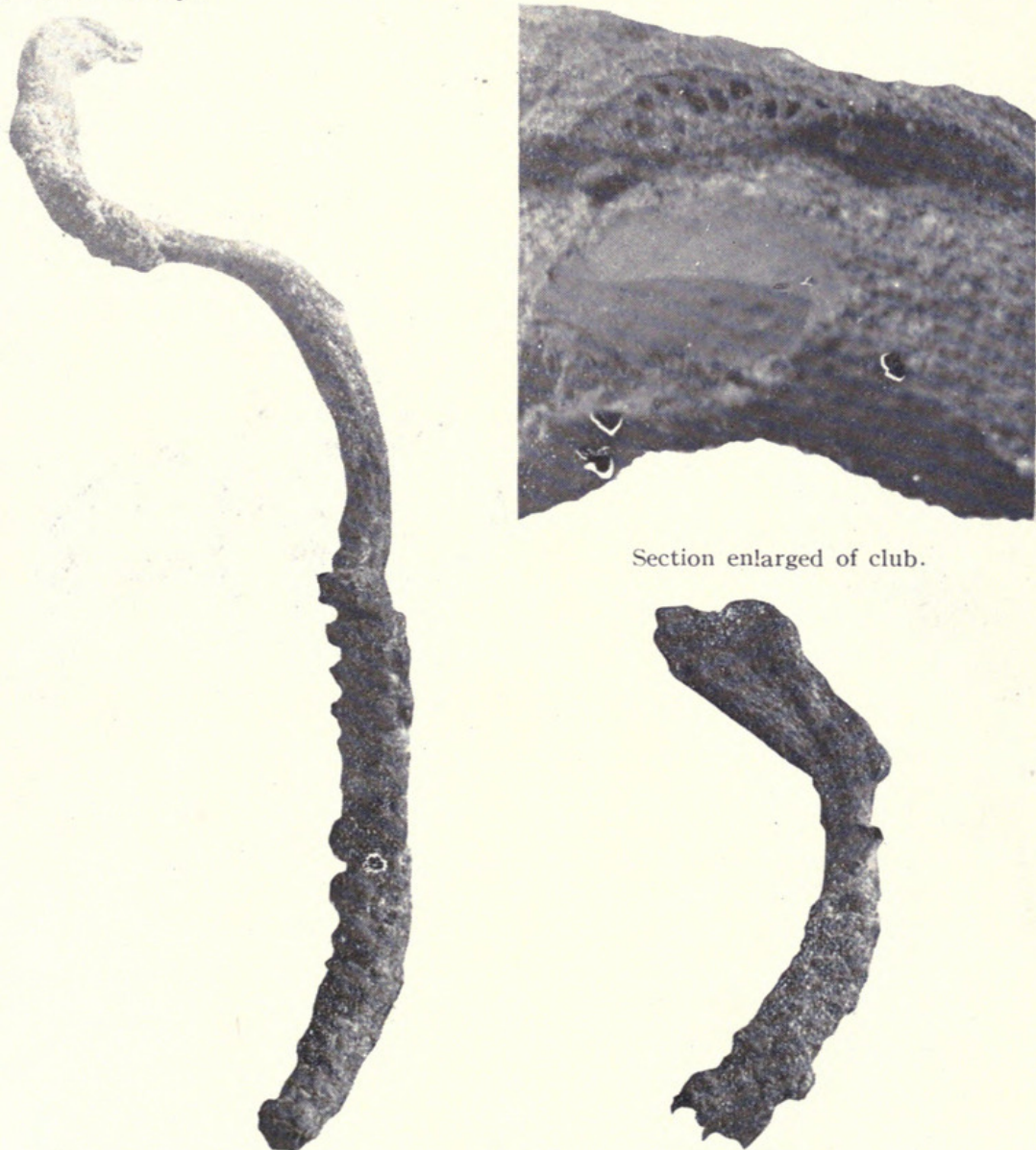
We present a photograph of Professor J. B. Ellis, sent us some time since, by Mrs. Dallas, since deceased. Through an error, it was filed in our library without being brought to my personal knowledge, and has only recently been found.

It was my privilege to meet Professor Ellis during the latter years of his life. He was exceedingly timid and shrinking, but possessed of a charming personality, and by his lovable disposition endeared himself to all who knew him. I never went East without going to see him for a few hours, and always came away the better for the visit. It is not here the place to discuss his part in American mycology. While hampered by lack of published literature and museum facilities, he yet accomplished a vast amount of work, and did it as best he could. While I was aware of many mistakes that he made, I never, during his lifetime, mentioned one of them in print. So earnest and honest was he in his work, and possessed of such a lovable disposition, that it was impossible for me to say a word that might have hurt his feelings in any way. I do not know of any other person towards whom I have felt exactly as I did towards Mr. Ellis, but consideration for his sensitive disposition and the high regard in which I held him personally, prompted me thus to make of him an exception.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES ON CORDYCEPS.

We are particularly interested in Cordyceps. They are most curious plants, usually developed from the bodies of some insect, larva, or pupa. I trust any one who finds specimens will favor me by simply drying them and sending to my address. The tropical species are very imperfectly known.

**CORDYCEPS ROBERTSII.** Additional notes on this species are afforded by an article published twenty-five years ago by Eric Craig, now an elderly gentleman residing at Auckland, New Zealand. As I have only the clipping I do not know where it was originally published, and the article has not been brought to the notice of the mycologists who have written on the subject. We summarize the additional information afforded by this article. The host is the caterpillar of *Hepialus virescens*, which, after its chrysalis state, becomes one of the night butterflies of New Zealand. The Cordyceps are eaten by the natives and called in their native Maori language, *Pep-eaweto* and *Hoteto*. It is chiefly gathered around the roots of the rata tree, though it occurs in forests where no rata grows. There are in New Zealand two other varieties, one called by the natives *Aweto*, is found in the Kumara beds; the other was found in the open bush, but rarely.



Section enlarged of club.

**Fig. 718**  
Cordyceps Craigii.

**CORDYCEPS CRAIGII, FROM ERIC CRAIG, NEW ZEALAND.** (Fig. 718.) Clubs solitary, growing from the heads of the

host. Stem 3-4 mm. thick, 3-4 cm. long. Fertile portion black (when dry) flattened and many curved (falcate), 2-3 cm. long, 8-10 mm. wide, 3-4 mm. thick. Surface smooth, or punctate with the mouths of the perithecia. Perithecia imbedded. Spores broken in the asci, into separable, short, secondary spores about 3 mic. long. The name of the host is unknown to me, but it is no doubt the larva of some Lepidopterous insect. There is but one similar species named, viz., *Cordyceps falcata*, known only from one collection, from India, and preserved at Kew. At first view it might be taken for this species, having similar size, shape and host. *Cordyceps falcata* does not grow solitary. The type had two fruits which were "caespitose" according to Berkeley's definition, but the main difference is that the perithecia of *Cordyceps falcata* are not imbedded but superficial, and according to accounts fall away as they do in *Cordyceps Robertsii*. My photographs seem to bear this out. Massee states, "The head is falcate in all the specimens present in the Herbarium." As "all the specimens" ever present was a single one, the argument for me is not very convincing.

*Cordyceps Craigii* was collected by Eric Craig in "old and abandoned Kumara beds," and is very rare. "Kumara," according to the dictionary, was the aboriginal name for the sweet potato. Mr. Craig also sends two specimens collected in the bush which are very similar and probably the same species. I could not say positively, however, from the specimens, as they are both immature.



*Cordyceps amazonica*.

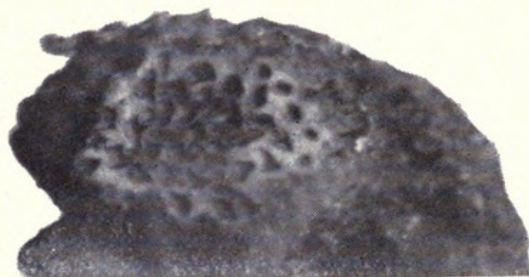


Fig. 719

Section of head enlarged.

**CORDYCEPS AMAZONICA, FROM REV. C. TORREND, BRAZIL.** (Fig. 719.) All we know of this plant is the figure and publication of Hennings, and we cannot trust very far the accuracy of his work. There are discrepancies. The heads are globose, not ovate, as shown. Instead of being a simple club, the stems are branched; in this specimen one with two branches, bearing a head on each branch. The other with a cluster of axillary heads (4) and two terminal heads. The secondary spores are 5-6 mic. Ordinarily, of course, it would be a "new species," but growing on the same host (*Locusta*) in the same region and being very similar, the probabilities are that it is the same.

**CORDYCEPS ROBERTSII, FROM GEORGE BROWN, NEW ZEALAND.** At the time we wrote our pamphlet on Australian

Cordyceps, we had no specimen, this being the first we have received. The perithecia are brown, easily rubbed off the axis, and measure  $225 \times 450$  mic. The spores are tardily broken into secondary spores, and are mostly entire in the asci. The secondary spores are about  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  mic.

**CORDYCEPS NUTANS, FROM J. UMEMURA, JAPAN.** (Fig. 720.) We are particularly pleased to get this specimen, for we have seen none in any museum in Europe. It was originally well described and figured in Bull. Myc., France, 1887, page 127. It came from Japan, and we believe is only heretofore known from the original. It is peculiar in several things. It is the only Cordyceps recorded on a Heteroptera or "true bug," as entomologists designate it. The insect belongs to the Pentatomidae, I am advised by Prof. Osborn, but does not appear in list of Japanese Hemiptera published by Uhler. Mr. Umemura sends a colored figure (fig. 720), which shows the club erect, not "nodding," as its name would indicate. He sends two specimens and two figures, and all four show a branching stem, as shown in the figure. Whether this represents another club that has been broken off, or a sterile branch, I can not say. The stem is black, but the club and upper portion of the stem is orange rather than "violet," as originally described. As the material is scanty, I do not wish to cut the specimen. The secondary spores were described as  $1-1\frac{1}{2} \times 10-15$  mic., which are unusually long. We hope our Japanese friends who find this will send us more ample material, as we should like to examine it under the microscope, and should also like an explanation of that branching stem.

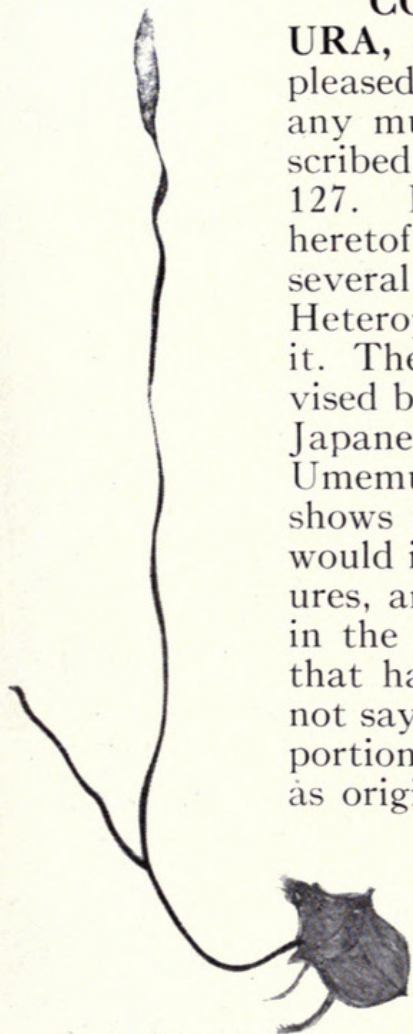


Fig. 720  
Cordyceps nutans.

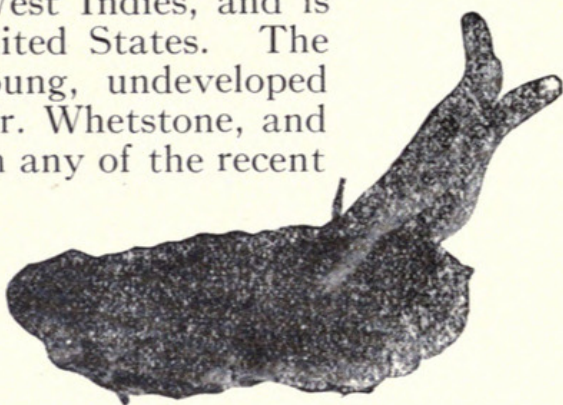
**CORDYCEPS SOBOLIFERA, FROM S. KAWAMURA, JAPAN.** (Fig. 721.) This is a most welcome addition to my collection. The species was well illustrated by Tulasne, from West Indian material, but no specimen is found in his herbarium. In fact, I found no specimen in any museum in Europe, and I believe the specimen just received is the only one in any museum of America or Europe.



Fig. 721  
Cordyceps  
sobolifera.

Cordyceps sobolifera was named from the West Indies in 1763. In the very early times several papers were published regarding it, as in those days they supposed it to be a mutation of an insect into a plant. It was said to be frequent in several West Indian islands, but no specimen seems to have reached Europe. Dr. Kawamura writes me that it is common in Japan. The species was not included in Matsumura's list.

**CORDYCEPS MELOLONTHAE, FROM DR. M. S. WHETSTONE, MINNESOTA.** (Fig. 724.) This is our largest and not rare species of Cordyceps, though our figure is made from a small, young specimen. It grows in the West Indies, and is more frequent in the Southern United States. The original reference was based on young, undeveloped specimens, such as this one from Dr. Whetstone, and its identity has not been recognized in any of the recent works on Cordyceps. It passes in American tradition as *Cordyceps herculea*, based on Schweinitz's record of *Sphaeria herculea*, which turned out to be a "puff-ball" (sic) not, a "*Sphaeria*" at all. (Cfr. Note 98, Letter 47.) I have long known that it could not be Schweinitz's species, for I knew his specimen was not a *Cordyceps*, but I had no name for the species until my last trip to Kew, when I found Cooke had named it *Cordyceps insignis*.



**Fig. 722**  
*Cordyceps melolonthae* (young).

A perfect specimen of *Cordyceps melolonthae* under the name *Torubia herculea* is given by Hard, figure 491. Such symmetrical specimens are rarely developed. Usually the heads are imperfect, and many specimens are collected young, before the fertile portion begins to form.

The first notice of this species appears to have been by Jacob Cist in 1824 in an account of the May bug. He figures the bug and its larva, and states that it is not unusual to find attached to the larva a number of "vegetable sprouts." He figures these "sprouts," and the figure is an evident attempt to illustrate a young growth of this *Cordyceps*. Tulasne, in his monograph of *Cordyceps* (or *Torubia*, as he called it), named the figure *Torubia Melolonthae*, though Tulasne never saw a specimen.

The host is the larva of the May bug or "June bug," as it is also called. It is a large, white larva with a brown head, known as the "white grub," and often a pest of the farmers, living on roots of grass, corn, etc., and causing considerable damage. Formerly it was put in the genus *Melolontha*, though in the current, entomological books it is classed as *Lachnosterna fusca*.

**BOTRYTIS (SP.), FROM B. T. HARVEY, COLORADO.** (Fig. 723.) A white mold growing on the larva of *Colloides nobilis*,



**Fig. 723**  
*Botrytis*.



which is a round head borer in dead roots of scrub white oak. The *Botrytis* forms a white mold with numerous minute, globose, hyaline spores  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 mic. in diameter. On cutting the larva, I find the inside a complete sclerotium, and

I doubt not that this *Botrytis* is a preliminary stage of some *Cordyceps*. As we have no species of *Cordyceps* recorded from this host, I hope Professor Harvey will keep a close watch for the *Cordyceps* form.

## THE GENUS MUCRONELLA.

This genus consists of little awl-shaped teeth, growing gregariously without a common subiculum. In early days it was classed as a resupinate Hydnum. Fries separated it (Summ. Veg. Scand.) under the name *Mucronia*, afterwards changed to *Mucronella*, and still included it with Hydneous plants. As each tooth is separate and distinct and does not spring from a common subiculum, as do the truly resupinate Hydnums, I think each should be considered as a distinct plant, and in that view should be classed in Clavariaceae. *Mucronellas* grow on the under side of logs and are rather rare. There are three species in Europe, all recorded (correctly?) in the United States, and in addition Peck has named two.

Fries got an idea somewhere that each basidium only bore one spore and made that a character of the genus. It does not hold true in the only fresh species I have examined (*M. aggregata*), and I doubt if it does in any. I also think that some of the species of *Mucronella* will be rearranged in other genera when they are better known.

The genus may be divided into two sections:

1st, With free teeth, gregarious.

2nd, With teeth fasciculate at base.

The first section is for me the true genus, the second section, I believe, would be better in the genus *Pterula*.

### SECTION 1. TEETH FREE AT BASE.

**MUCRONELLA AGGREGATA.** (Figs. 724 and 725.) White with a yellow cast in drying. Densely gregarious, without subiculum. Teeth about a mm. long, acute, smooth, no cystidia. Basidia 4 spored. Spores  $4 \times 6$ , hyaline, smooth, with granular contents. This grew on old pine log. Our figure 725 (enlarged six times) will give an idea of the plant such as no description can. We collected the plant several times in Sweden and have a specimen from L. O. Overholts, Ohio. Peck also records it.

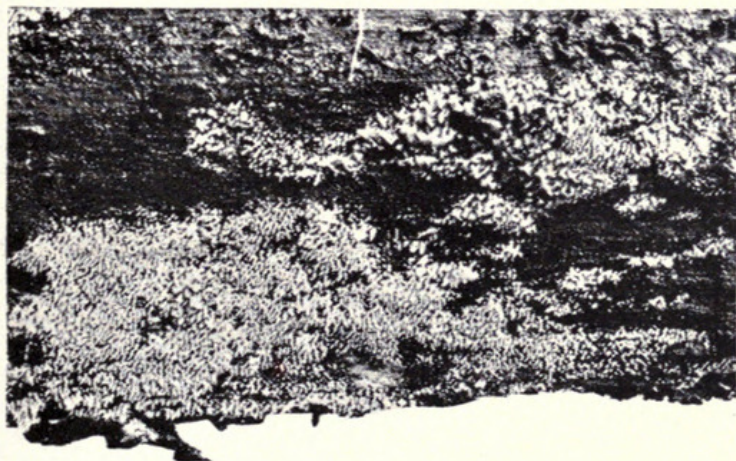


Fig. 724

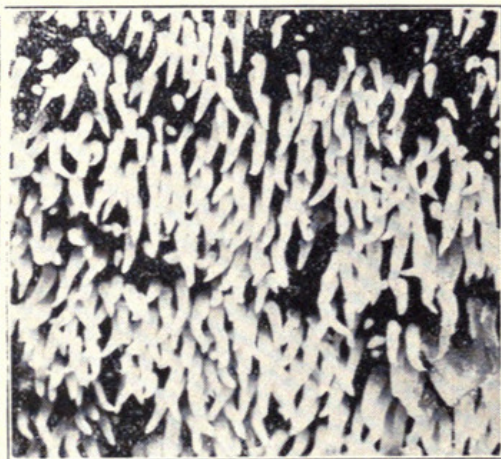


Fig. 725

*Mucronella aggregata*, Fig. 724 natural size. Fig. 725 enlarged six times.

ILLUSTRATIONS.—Fig. 724 natural size, fig. 725 enlarged six times. Patouillard, Fig. 680 (as *Mucronella calva* in error) very good, excepting spores not globose as shown. Fries Icon. t. 194 inaccurate. Teeth are too blunt, also show an indication of subiculum which does not exist.

SYNONYMS.—*Mucronella abnormalis*, described by Hennings from Europe, seems from figure to be *Mucronella aggregata*, neither "abnormal" nor unusual.

**MUCRONELLA MINUTISSIMA.** Same as the preceding excepting the minute size, hardly visible to the eye, and teeth not over one third as long. I collected it recently at Eglon, West Va. I make the spores  $4 \times 6$ , not  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 4$ , as recorded by Peck. It forms little white patches on under side of moist pine.

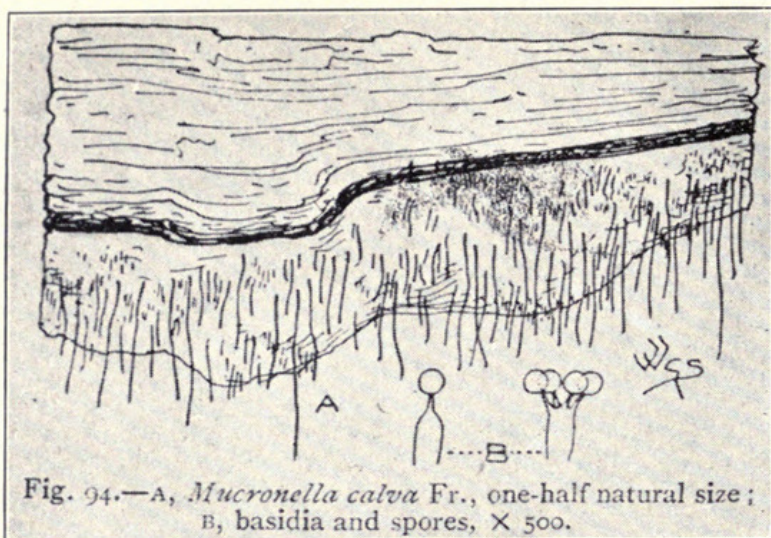


Fig. 94.—A, *Mucronella calva* Fr., one-half natural size; B, basidia and spores, X 500.

Fig. 726

*Mucronella calva* reproduced from Smith.

**MUCRONELLA CALVA.** (Fig. 726.) Teeth slender, scattered, from a quarter to an inch long, whitish, then grey. Subiculum (teste Smith) a very thin film that soon disappears. This is unknown to me excepting from the books. I reproduce Smith's figure, which I judge is correct as to general appearance and more characteristic than the original by A. & S. Fries got an impression that it had one spore basidium, and Smith improved on it by assigning "1 to 4" spores, and draws his figures to show it, an obvious bull on the face of it. Men who draw figures of ideas instead of facts are always making such breaks. While I have never seen the plant, I surmise that it is a *Calocera* and that its basidia will be found to be furcate, but if the basidia are clavate as Smith shows them, then the plant is a better *Pterula*. The name *calva* means a bald head with a few scattered hairs, and from Smith's figure seems quite appropriate to the plant.

#### SECTION 2ND. TEETH FASCICULATE AT BASE.

I believe this section is better classed as *Pterula*.

**MUCRONELLA FASCICULARIS.** (Fig. 727.) Teeth slender, caespitose-fasciculate from a common base, pendant, drying reddish, about a cm. long. Spores hyaline, globose, 8-10 mic., apiculate. This was figured by A. & S. many years ago. I have seen it rarely in the museums, but have no specimens from Europe or the United States. I collected it in Samoa, and my specimens were described as *Pterula fascicularis* (Myc. Notes, p.

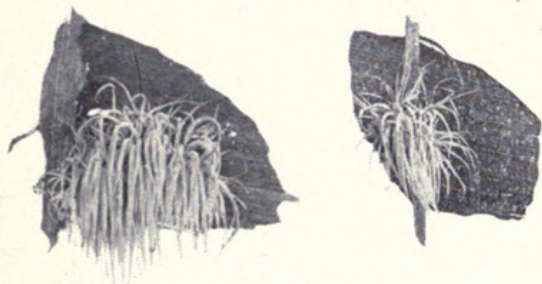


Fig. 727

50). I do not question that it is the same as the European plant. At least it agrees well with the original figure. It appears to be very rare in Europe and has been recorded from the United States. I be-

lieve *Mucronella fascicularis* should be classed as a *Pterula*, as Bresadola classed my Samoa collection. Certainly it is cogenetic with several tropical species, as *Pterula Winkleriana* and *Pterula Sprucei* (which, however, passes as a *Hydnum* in Saccardo). The substance is rigid and cartilaginous, not soft and fleshy as in preceding section.

ILLUSTRATIONS.—Fig. 727, made from fresh specimens in Samoa. A. & S. t. 10, fig. 9, the original illustration of Europe very good.

**MUCRONELLA ULMI.** Described by Peck growing on Elm. It is similar to *Mucronella fascicularis*, in its habits of growth, but is much smaller with teeth 1 to 1½ lines long and fewer in a fascicule.

## RARE SPECIES OF FUNGI RECEIVED FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

**POLYPORUS MYLITTAE, FROM E. CHEEL, AUSTRALIA.** (Figs. 728 to 732.) There occurs in Australia a frequent tuberaceous growth, which was used by the natives as food and called "native bread" or "blackfellow's bread." While it was supposed to be of fungal origin, its nature was unknown for many years, and Berkeley (in 1839), presuming that it belonged to the Tuberaceae, although he records that he could not find any spores, named it *Mylitta australis*. It was compiled in Vol. 8, Saccardo under the uncertain genera.



Fig. 728

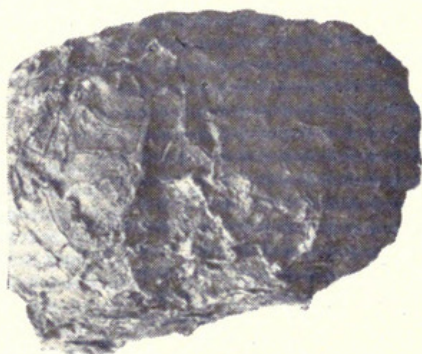


Fig. 729



Fig. 730

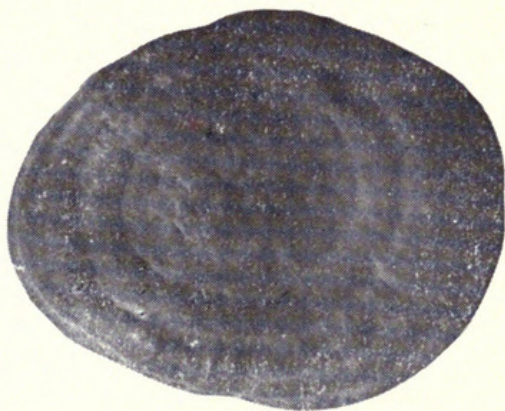


Fig. 731

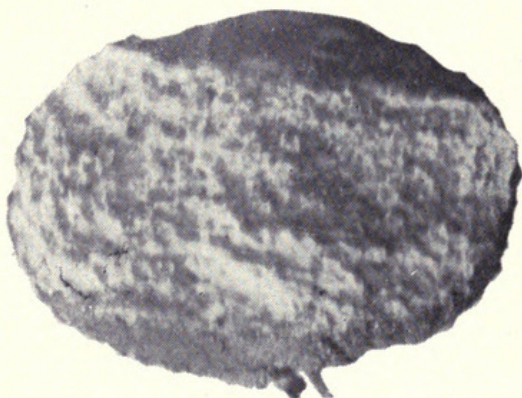


Fig. 732

Fig. 728 a small plant.

Fig. 729 sclerotium exterior.

Fig. 730 mycelial base of plant.

Fig. 731 top of pileus.

Fig. 732 section of sclerotium.

The exact nature of this growth was a mystery until 1885, when H. T. Tisdall found specimens that had developed fructifications of a

Polyporus and gave an account of it in the Victorian Naturalist. Specimens were sent to Kew and named Polyporus Mylittae (1892). These are the finest fruiting bodies I have seen. I found no specimen at Kew, but at the British Museum is a photograph of a sclerotium bearing several deformed sporophores. The specimens from Mr. Cheel are regular and perfect. As the original description is inaccurate in several particulars, we would describe it as follows:

Pileus 2-4 cm., with a sulcate, minutely tomentose surface. Color raw umber (brown). Flesh dry, subligneous, in two layers, each 1 to 2 mm. thick, the upper light brown, the lower white. Stipe mesopodial, 5-10 mm. thick, 2-3 cm. long, deformed. Pores small, round or irregular, 2 to 3 to a mm., 2-3 mm. long. Spores abundant, cylindrical, 2 x 6 mic., hyaline, smooth.

The fruiting bodies are attached to the sclerotia by thick, white, branched, mycelial cords, that permeate the substance of the sclerotia.

As there is not a specimen of Polyporus Mylittae, as far as we have found in other museums of Europe or the United States, it is needless to add that we are particularly glad to get these from Mr. Cheel. The species was included in our Synopsis in Section 38 (Ovinus). It should be moved to Section 8 (Lignosus).

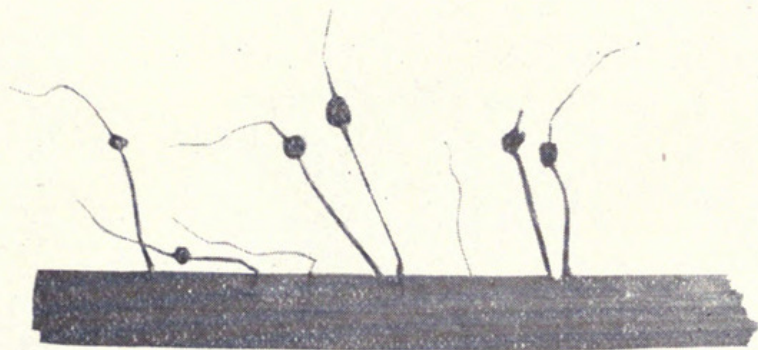


Fig. 733

*Xylaria axifera*.

**XYLARIA AXIFERA, FROM REV. C. TORREND, BRAZIL.** (Fig. 733.) There are two similar and most beautiful little species of *Xylaria* in Brazil that have been confused and given (in error) by Theissen as synonyms. Both were named by Montagne, viz., *Xylaria axifera* and *Xylaria aristata*. Both have filiform stems, which are prolonged beyond the little, globose or subglobose heads. They may be distinguished as follows:

*Xylaria axifera* has always smooth, globose heads, pale stems, indistinct ostioles, and few perithecia, and grows on the dead stems of herbaceous plants.

*Xylaria aristata* has usually oblong, tubercular heads, black stems, prominent ostioles, and grows on dead leaves.

I found no spores in sections of either that I examined. I have a nice collection of *Xylaria aristata* from Madame Anna Brockes and of *Xylaria axifera* from Rev. C. Torrend.

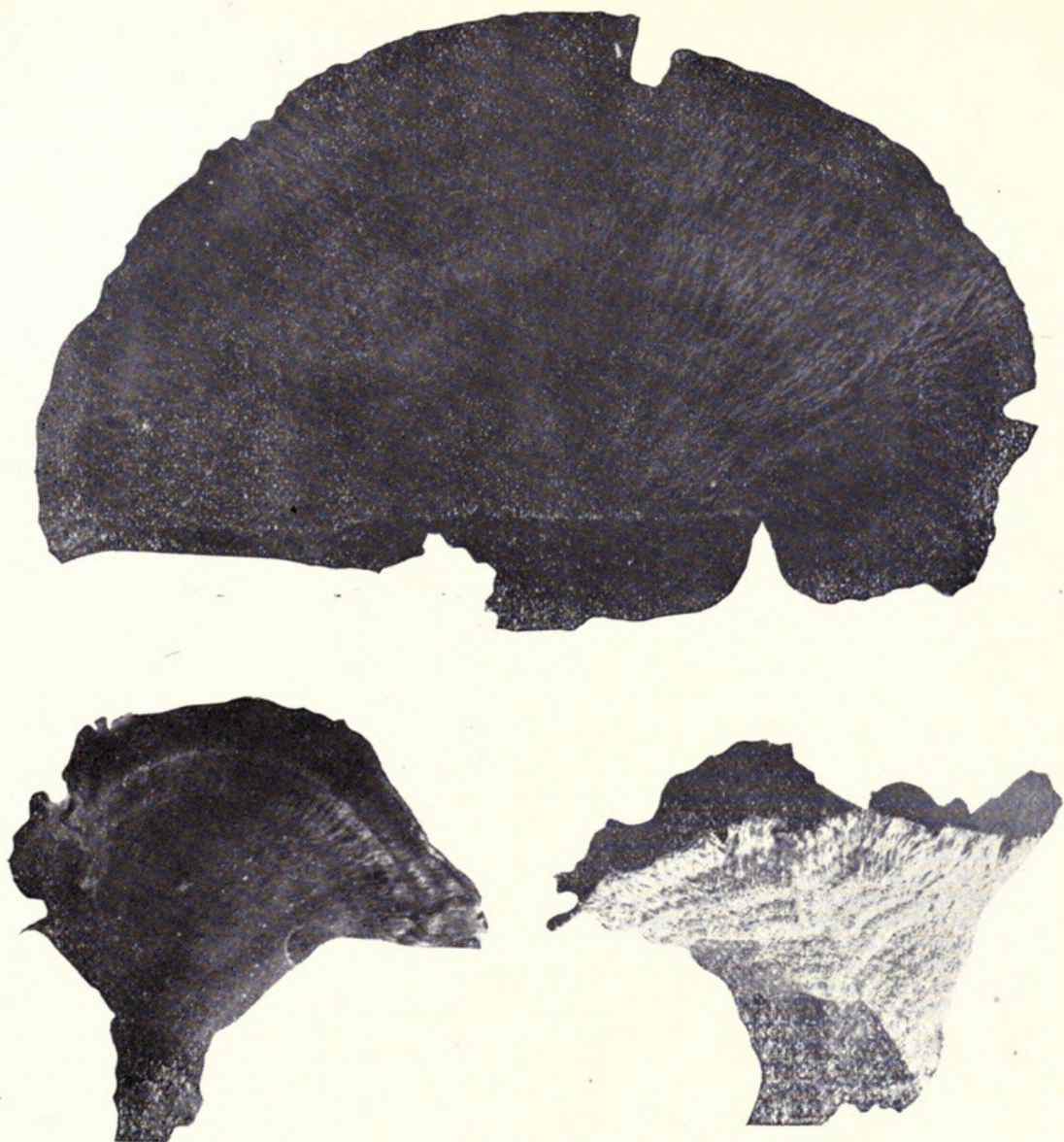


Fig. 734  
*Cladoderris floridana*.

**CLADODERRIS FLORIDANA.** (Fig. 734.) Usually growing on top of log, and then cup-shaped with short stipe. When on the side of log flabelliform or orbicular, reduced to a short stipe-like attachment at the base. Upper surface reddish brown, zoned, with appressed, compact, thin, tomentose pad near base. Hymenial surface reddish brown, densely, minutely papillate, disposed in narrow ridges, but not with the branching, strong veins of other species of *Cladoderris*. Cystidia none. Spores compressed, globose  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ , hyaline, smooth, with a small gutta near the end.

Growing on frondose wood and quite rare at Bayard, Florida.

As only recently I hunted up all the species of *Cladoderris* in the museums of Europe, and expressed the opinion that but one valid species had been named in the last sixty years, I was a little surprised to find one growing in Florida.

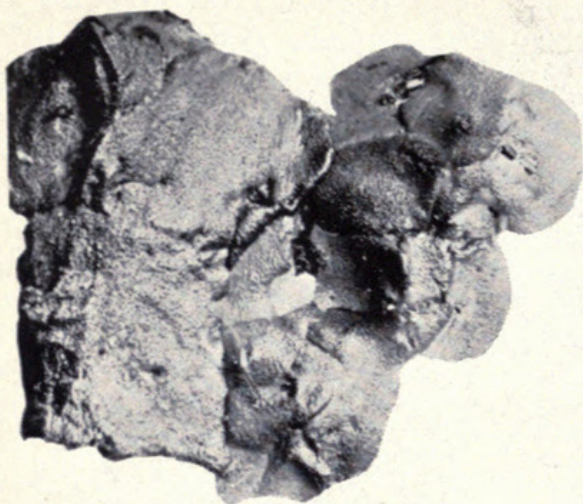


Fig. 735

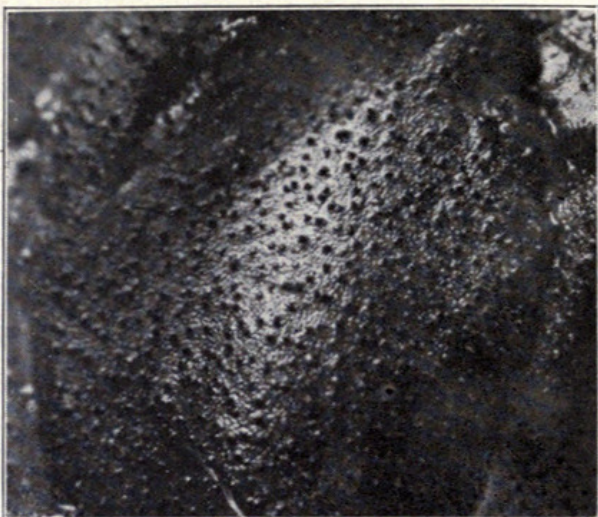


Fig. 736

*Exidia purpureo-cinerea* (Fig. 736 enlarged surface showing the papillae).

**EXIDIA PURPUREO-CINEREA, FROM MISS A. V. DUTHIE, SOUTH AFRICA.** (Fig. 735.) We determine this from the description and the fact that it was named from South Africa. The short diagnosis does not tell much, but it is probably correct. The type is at Berlin, but I am not able to tell much about it. We noted at once that it was not a European species, differing in its mode of growth, its paler color and the dense, minute papillae from *Exidia glandulosa*, its nearest relative in Europe. It is a true *Exidia* with globose, cruciate, pale colored basidia, 10 mic. in diameter, and typical papillae. The spores are also typical of the genus, 6 x 10 reniform, subhyaline, with granular contents. To our eye, there is nothing purple about it. The types at Berlin are very poor, and we think these are the only good specimens in any museum.

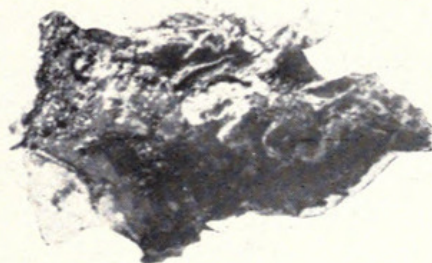
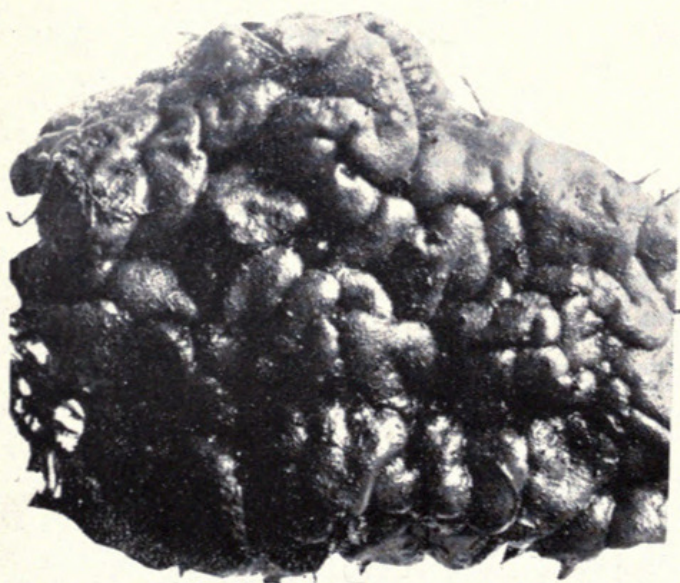


Fig. 737

*Exidia caespitosa*. (The figure on the right shows dried plant as received, before soaking out).

**EXIDIA CAESPITOSA, FROM MISS A. V. DUTHIE, SOUTH AFRICA.** (Fig. 737.) Truncate, densely caespitose, so that it appears cerebriform. Color pale, amber brown. Imbedded near the surface are slender, broken, deeply colored ducts (gloeocystidia). Basidia not found. Spores not seen. This species has same color and papillae as the *Exidia purpureo-cinerea*, differing in shape and structure. The form is like that of *Exidia truncata* of Europe, but its caespitose manner of growth, much paler color and smaller size all distinguish it.



Fig. 738  
*Phlebia meruloides*.

**PHLEBIA MERULOIDES.** (Fig. 738.) Resupinate. Color Dresden Brown, margin narrow, paler, thin, not strongly distinct.

Hymenium meruloid (Fig. 739 enlarged), same configuration as *Merulius lacrymans*. Spores 3x5, hyaline, smooth, slightly curved. I collected this recently at Eglen, W. Va. It grew on rather firm, decorticate pole, lying some feet from the ground over a small stream. It was a puzzle to me, for while the hymenium was meruloid, it was so different in texture and appearance from all the *Merulius* species that I could not believe it was a *Merulius*. On drying, it becomes a *Phlebia* and the texture, flesh and appearance are of dried *Phlebia radiata*, and so close to that plant that notwithstanding its meruloid hymenium when fresh, I should put it in *Phlebia*. This also throws some light

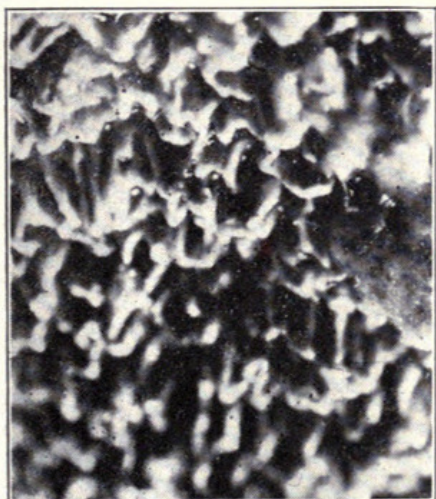


Fig. 739  
(Pores enlarged.)

on the relations of the genus *Phlebia*. Fries classes it in *Hydnaceae*. I have thought it was better in *Thelephoraceae*. Patouillard places it with *Merulius*. I think now Patouillard is right. For me it is a degenerate *Polyporoid*.

**STROBILOMYCES PALLIDUS, FROM F. A. WOLF, ALABAMA.** (Fig. 740.)



Fig. 740  
*Strobilomyces pallidus*.

We have received from our Southern States what appears to us to be the above species, heretofore only known from Australia, and an addition to our scanty *Strobilomyces* native flora. The common *Strobilomyces strobilaceus* of the northern States has dark, fuliginous scales, and we were impressed at once with the pale scales of these specimens. On examination, we find it has entirely different spores, viz.: oblong, 7 x 20 mic., colored, smooth, with fine striations, and on comparison seems to me to be same as the Australian species, excepting a more slender stem. Berkeley based the genus *Strobilomyces* on the globose spores (cfr. Note 82, Letter 45), hence this plant does not belong to the genus, and our friend McGinty proposes for it the name *Strobilofungus pallidus* (Cooke) McGinty.

However, as by use the name *Strobilomyces* has acquired a different meaning from the original definition (cfr. note cited), we believe it would be better to allow it to stand.

There are several species of *Strobilomyces* in Australia, but *Strobilomyces strobilaceus* (and a doubtful species *S. floccopus*) are the only species heretofore attributed to United States or Europe.

**ARACHNION SCLERODERMA, FROM MISS A. V. DUTHIE, SOUTH AFRICA.**—

Peridium globose, 1-1½ cm. in diameter, with a strong, rooting base. Sterile base, none. Peridium thin, with large, irregular warts on the order of the warts of *Scleroderma aurantiacum*. Gleba greenish olive. Peridioles irregular, both in size and shape, from globose to narrowly elongated, or obtusely triangular, 60-300 mic. in diameter. Spores globose, or slightly oval, smooth, mostly pedicellate, with slender pedicels 16-20 mic. long.



Fig. 741

I have worked with puff balls now for about fifteen years, and of the many hundred specimens received, I never have gotten another that is as distinctly novel as this plant. The genus *Arachnion* heretofore, like the genus *Battarrea*, and the genus *Polysaccum*, has consisted of practically one polymorphic species, *Arachnion album*, plants varying slightly in minor details, but really the same thing. A full account of this species was given in *Mycological Notes*, page 252. *Arachnion Scleroderma* is nearly the same as to microscopic characters, but so different in its grosser characters, that I thought at first it was a *Scleroderma*.

**SEBACINA DENDROIDEA.**—We reproduce (fig. 742) a photograph of this curious plant made by Burt Leeper, Salem, Ohio. It is a rather rare plant in the United States, and is always found growing on the hymenial face of *Fomes applanatus* or the allied species,

*Fomes leucophaeus*. Its book history has been most confusing, and we were much interested in straightening out the tangled threads in our last visit to Kew. We learned the plant years ago from Morgan, who had sent it to Cooke, and Cooke named it for him, "*Thelephora dendritica*, B. & C." As there is no *Thelephora dendritica* given in Saccardo, and as the only plant so named by Persoon years ago is



Fig. 742

*Sebacina dendroidea*, growing on the hymenial face of *Fomes applanatus*.  
Photographed by Burt Leeper, Salem, Ohio.

now called *Cladoderris dendritica* and evidently not this plant, Morgan was much mystified over it. He never published it. I found at Kew that the original specimen reached Berkeley from Venezuela, and was named by him in manuscript, "*Stereum dendriticum*, B. & C." He did not publish it, however, until he got it from Ceylon, and then he published it as *Hymenochaete dendroidea*, with incidental reference to the Venezuelan specimen, but none to the label on his previous specimen. Cooke, in *Grevillea*, claimed that *Hymenochaete dendroidea* should be called *Thelephora dendroidea*, and it was so compiled by Saccardo.

As to the proper classification of the plant, I am in doubt, as I do not know either its spores or its basidia. I do not question, however, that it is a *Sebacina*, from its habits of growth. I have never collected the plant fresh, and am unable in the dried specimen to find either spores or basidia. I presume that Prof. Burt will enlighten us on the subject some day, if we live long enough. The dried specimens are always contaminated with the colored *Ganodermus* spores

of the host, and showing the scanty knowledge Cooke had of the subject, I have seen somewhere a figure by him, illustrating these spores as the spores of the plant. In fact, I surmise that Berkeley must have thought they were "spines" when he classified it as *Hymenochaete* (sic).

As further illustrating the wide distribution of plants, this curious growth came originally from Venezuela, then it was found in Ceylon, and then in the United States. Berkeley had it from Venezuela and Ceylon, and Petch tells me he finds it frequent in Ceylon. I have it from Henri Perrier de la Bathie, Madagascar. Morgan found it around Cincinnati; I never did, but have specimens from J. W. Huntington, Massachusetts; Mrs. Hannah Streeter, Pennsylvania; A. P. Morgan, Ohio; W. H. Ballou, New York, and Burt Leeper, Ohio.

The genus *Sebacina* is based on the basidia as pointed out by Tulasne. It has fleshy or cartilaginous tissue and hyaline spores and in the Friesian classification is generally called either *Corticium*, *Stereum*, or *Thelephora*. But the basidia correspond with the tremellaceous plants, and instead of being clavate with four sterigmata, they are divided by septations into four compartments, and hence, according to the classification of "experts" of the present day, they are entirely different from ordinary Basidiomycetes, and must be classified in a different division. According to the modern system of classification of fungi, Nature, when she evolved this subject, did not pay any attention to anything excepting the basidia, and however wide the difference may be otherwise, if the basidia are similar, they must be classified together. I am glad to see that Prof. Burt in his recent summary has taken a more sensible view of it and classified *Sebacina* among the *Thelephoraceae* plants, where, according to my ideas, it naturally belongs.

As previously stated, I do not know that this plant is a *Sebacina*, but I judge so from its habits, for *Sebacinas* are always encrusting plants growing on living hosts, and similar to this species in habits and appearance.

**THE GENUS EXOBASIDIUM.** We are considerably amused in looking over Prof. Burt's recently published conclusions on the genus *Exobasidium*. Fourteen "new species" have been discovered in Europe and the United States, all of which Burt finds are the same species, *Exobasidium vaccinii*, and it takes more space to put them together than it did to pull them apart. Many discoverers of new species are like the "wise" men we read of in our nursery books, who jump into the bramble bush to scratch out all their eyes, and then jump back to scratch them in again.



Lloyd, C. G. 1915. "Mycological Notes No. 39." *Mycological writings of C. G. Lloyd* 4, 525–540.

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