

LETTER No. 39

FUNGI OF MADAGASCAR.

We have received from Monsieur Henri Perrier de le Bathie, Madagascar, a very fine collection of fungi that we think worthy of a separate letter. The collection embraces more specimens than we have noted in the museums of Europe and we presume more than has heretofore been sent in from Madagascar. It includes two striking novelties, namely: *Fomes perlevis* and *Fomes sculpturatus*. I would determine the plants as follows:

Hirneola polytricha. This in my opinion, is only the tropical form for the "Jew's ear" *Hirneola auricula* - Judae of the temperate world.

Cyclomyces fuscus. Peculiar plant with concentric gills. Cfr. Myc. Notes No. 36, page 487.

Hexagona mirabilis. I recently received this plant from Mr. O'Connor, Mauritius. but otherwise it is only known to me from the original station Samoa.

Polystictus affinis. Perfectly smooth and in color approaching carneo-niger.

Trametes hystrix. Common and only occurs in Africa. Close to *Trametes hydroides* of the American tropics but has constantly larger pores. However, many specimens of it are in the museums, misnamed *Trametes hydroides* (which does not occur in Africa).

Polystictus vinosus. Readily known by its peculiar vinous (atro-purpureus) color.

Polyporus sacer. (Cfr. Stipitate Polyporoids page 122, fig. 420). A peculiar African species only.

Polystictus Persoonii (form *rubriporis*) without question a form of *Polystictus Persoonii*, with the (red) pore mouths concolorous with the pileus. I have seen many collections of this tropical species but never before one that did not have white pore mouths. The context of this collection is white as ordinary.

Polystictus leoninus. (Cfr. Synopsis *Funalis* page 64). A peculiar and common plant in the East and Africa.

Polystictus sanguineus. The common red species of the tropical world.

Lenzites repanda, also common throughout the tropical world.

Lentinus cirrhosus as illustrated Req. Afz. t. x. f. 21.

Polystictus occidentalis var. *lanatus*. The African plant received by me from several correspondents, has a deeper yellow context than those from other tropical countries. It was named *Polyporus lanatus* by Fries.

Polyporus auricularius. Same as our American plant.

Fomes nigro-laccatus. For me a form of the common *Fomes australis* of the tropics, with a slightly laccate crust.

Hexagona umbrinella. (cfr. Synopsis *Hexagona* p. 26), very close to *Hexagona subtenuis* but with larger pores.

Cladoderris elegans. This is well named for it is the best marked species that grows in the tropics.

Polystictus cryptomereriae. This seems to be the Eastern form, if not same species, as *Polystictus pinsitus* of American tropics.

Fomes pseudosenex. Applanate, thin, with a rimose black crust. Context color and pore mouths snuff brown. (303-). Pores very minute, hardly visible to the eye. Annual layers, narrow, about 5 to cm. Setae none. Spores globose, deep colored, $4\frac{1}{2}$ mic. This is an extremely hard species, brittle, and heavy, which was named (or rather misnamed) from the American tropics. It has little relation to *Fomes senex* though confused with it by the author (Montagne).

Fomes perlevis. Sessile, ungulate, type specimen 10 x 6 inches. Color of context lateritius red. (Reddish Terra Cotta 100-4), ligneous but soft and light. Surface Dark Fawn (307-3). mat, with no distinct crust, soft, easily indented. Pores medium, round, the context lateritius red but the mouths and hymenial layer pale or white. Setae none. Hyphae pale red. Spores hyaline or faintly colored, $4-4\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}-6$, smooth. This is a most peculiar species, not to be confused with any other. The context is red but the white pore mouths and brown surface give no indication of it in an uncut specimen. The pores are indistinctly stratified. It is remarkable among all other *Fomes* by its light weight, and soft spongy surface, but there is no indication of a dual layer such as is found in some species. Type specimen from Henri Perrier de la Bathie, Madagascar.

Fomes sculpturatus. Applanate, sessile, (5 x 3 x 1 inch.) Context hard, ligneous, pale almost white. Surface chocolate brown (343-2) with a thin crust, mat, hard, rugulose. Pores minute, hard, brown, concolorous with the crust, and contrasting with the pale context. Setae none. Basidial spores not found but conidial spores abundant and quite peculiar. They are obovate, attached by the broad end,

large, 12 x 20 mic. brown, and sculptured. In general appearance and color this resembles *Polyporus resinosus* (of Fries) but is quite different in its ligneous structure and peculiar conidial spores. The pores are not distinctly stratified in the type specimen, but we place it in *Fomes* on account of its evidently woody, perennial nature. Type specimen from Henri Perrier de la Bathie, Madagascar.

Polyporus licnoides. Not typically marked as the South American form, but evidently the same species.

Polyporus gilvus same as in United States.

Polyporus carneo-fulvus. This is quite close to *gilvus* except the reddish tinge of the pileus. The pore mouths have the same soft feel as those of *Fomes Haskarlui*.

Polyporus. An unnamed species belonging to a new Section (11 c) of *Lignosus*. It has gilvous context and pale yellow spores (globose, apiculate, 8 mic.) In general habits and stipe attachments it resembles some *Ganoderma* (as *Emini*) but in context and spores it is quite distinct from all others. Unfortunately but one little specimen was sent and I should not like to name it from this material.

Fomes pectinatus(?) Same macroscopically but spores are $3\frac{1}{2} \times 4$, colored. Setae none. I have never found spores in the types of *pectinatus*.

Ganoderma mangiferae. This species has a peculiar color by which it may be recognized.

Stereum lobatum, as the luxuriant, tropical form of *Stereum versicolor* is called.

Stereum. (Section *Lloydiella*). Curious in the way it contracts in drying. Hymenium red on bruising.

Stereum. Species unknown to me. Resembling the common *Stereum lobatum*, and strongly lobed. It is allied to *spadiceum* however, as the hymenium turns red on being bruised. Cystidia none.

Mycenastrum Corium. Five large specimens of this very peculiar puff ball. Exactly the same as from Australia, Europe and America.

Polystictus xanthopus, (cfr. Synopsis Section *Microporus* page 50) a characteristic plant of Africa and the East.

Fomes Pappianus, This is distinguished from *Fomes rimosus* (which also grows in South Africa,) by its distinctly larger pores.

Also a *Fomes*, two *Polystictus* and two *Lentinus* unknown to me.

These specimens were sent to my Paris address, forwarded to me in Cincinnati and received by me in May, 1912.

Cincinnati, O., July, 1912

C. G. LLOYD.

NOTE 24. *Lenzites trabea*. We finally adopt this name for the common species in the United States which we have heretofore called *Lenzites protracta*. (Cfr. Note 1). While common in the United States, it is rather rare in Europe and it is difficult to find a satisfactory name for the European species. Peck (of course) discovered it as a "new species" and named it *Lenzites vialis*. These European plants discovered to be "new species" in America, do not appeal to us very strongly. I have until recently thought it the plant Fries illustrates as *Trametes protracta* and *Trametes protracta* is so given as a synonym in Bresadola's writings.

Mr. Romell sends me a quite different plant, namely, the *Trametes* form of *Lenzites sepiaria* under the name *protracta*, and on looking into Fries' writings and illustrations again I am satisfied that he is correct. Orth distributed the plant (I think in Rabenhorst's *exsiccatae*) as *Trametes trabea*, a name which is attributed to Persoon and this is the name used by Bresadola, I do not believe that this was Persoon's plant at all according to his description, for he describes gills as "reddish" and compares it to *Daedalea quercina*. I do not think he would have done so if he had this plant in view. There is no specimen in Persoon's herbarium. As we cannot consistently continue to call it *Lenzites protracta* we shall in the future call it *Lenzites trabea*, though we think that Orth's name (if any name) should be written after it. There is no evidence whatever that it is *Lenzites trabea* in the sense of Persoon.

NOTE 25. *Polystictus rubidus*. We recently received a nice collection of this species from Java from Mr. Mousset and we have it from other Java correspondents. We are beginning to believe that this must be the original *Polyporus carneus* (Nees) which came from Java, although I think no one has seen the type. Berkeley called a closely related plant in America, *Polyporus carneus* and this name is now well established in American mycology. It has been stated that the American plant is a synonym for *Fomes roseus* of Europe but I think it will appeal to anyone who has worked with both plants as a mistake. I think the best way out of the muddle will be to continue to call the American plant *Polyporus carneus* and the Javanese plant *Polyporus rubidus*. Both are very closely related to *Polyporus Feei* of Brazil.

NOTE 26. *Polyporus subolivaceus*. I think this is the only valid name we can apply to this common, tropical American plant that has been so badly confused. Berkeley named one collection *Polyporus subolivaceus* (compiled in Saccardo as *Fomes*, which it is not) though Berkeley usually called it *Polyporus plebius* var. *cubensis*. There is not the slightest evidence or probability that it had anything to do with *Polyporus plebius* of New Zealand. Ellis referred it to *Polyporus hemileucus* which is correct in part, for two or three different species (including this one) are included in *Polyporus hemileucus*.

Murrill with his date dictionary, referred it to *Polyporus supinus*. The only specimen of *Polyporus supinus* (type) is in the British Museum, a very poor specimen and it is doubtful what it is. I have examined it very carefully and doubt if it is this plant.

At any rate Mr. Murrill's opinion was probably only a guess, for while he visited London and wrote many opinions on the identity of Schwartz's specimens in the British Museum, he seems to have done so by the inductive method. Shortly after he had published on this subject each of the three attendants in the mycological department of the British Museum told me that to the best of their belief he had never visited the mycological department the Museum.

NOTE 27. *Polyporus squamosus*. Mr. Ballou informs us that he has found this species very abundant around New York growing on dead elms. It is a rather rare plant in the United States, though unfortunately too common in Europe. It is there quite a serious disease on shade trees.

NOTE 28. *Ganoderma lucidum* "tropical form". This puzzling plant to which we have referred in a previous note is so variable that probably several "species" can be based on it. We get similar plants from several collectors and never from the tropics exactly the same as from Europe. Two collections (Dr. Anna Brookes, Brazil and J. H. Irami, India) have the **context marked with narrow distinct zones**, a feature never in the temperate region plant.



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