THE MYXOMYCETES OF WISCONSIN

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The Myxomycetes of Wisconsin by Aletta Friscone Dean

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ALETTA FRISCONE DEAN

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DATE

THE MYXOMYCETES

of

WISCONSIN

Ву

ALLETTA PRISCONE DEAN

A Thesis Presented for the Degree of MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN 1904 398740 -D345 -20CI -6 1933 -A225
INTRODUCTORY

The Mycetozoa number at present about four hundred species, the greater part of which are contained in the group of the Myxomycetes or Slime-Fungi (the Myxogasteres of Fries) and the smaller part in the group distinguished by Van Tieghem under the name of Acrasieae.

The Mycetozoa, according to Strasburger, are an independent phylum. The Acrasicae are supposed to be connecting links between the Myxomycetes and Rhizopods, but no line of development has yet been found between these and any higher plant forms.

Their mode of life is similar to that of the fungi.

They have no chlorophyll. A few, like Plasmodiophera

brassica, are parasites, but the greater number are saprophytes. The Myxomycetes, however, show no hyphal structure and can not be called fungi.

The vegetative stage of the alime moulds consists of the plasmodium, which is a naked mass of protoplasm, amosboid in movement, found most frequently in forests upon decaying moss, leaves, wood, etc. The general character of the plasmodium has caused to be given to this organism the common name Slime-mould.

The fruit consists of simple or compound sporangia.

The spores may be borne outside or inside the spore-bearing body. Besides the spores, the sporangia of the most of

the species contain filaments of various forms, called the capillitium.

Nearly 400 species, distributed among 50 genera, have been described. In the United States 200 or more species have been recognized. Macbride, up to the year 1894, had reported 75 species from eastern Iowa.

The classification is as follows:

- 1. Acrasieae
- 2. Myxomycetes
 - (1) Exosporae
 - (2) Endosporae
 - a. Simple
 - b. Compound

For my list of synonyms I have drawn largely from Macbride's North American Slime-Moulds.

For my determination of specimens I have consulted Saccardo's Sylloge Fungorum, Lister's A Monograph of the Mycetozoa, Massee's A Monograph of the Myxogasteres, and Macbride's North American Slime-Moulds.

Where I have used their authors' names in my descriptions with no further designation, the data have been taken from the above named books.

Alletta F. Dean.

University of Wisconsin June 1, 1904.

CERATIOMYXA FRUTICULOSA (MUELL.) MACBR.

- 1729. Puccinia ramosa bifurcata, etc., Micheli, p. 213, Tab. 92, Fig. 2.
- 1775. Byssus fruticulosa Mueller in Fl. Dan., t.718, Fig. 2.
- 1778. Tremella hydnoidea Jacquin, Misc., Vol. I., t. 16.
- 1783. Clavaria puccinia Batsch, Eleuch. Fung., p.139, Fig.19.
- 1791. Puccinia byssoides Gmelin, Syst. Nat., p. 1462.
- 1791. Clavaria byssoides Bulliard, Champ. de la France, t. 415, Fig. 2.
- 1794. Isaria mucida Pers., Rom.N.Mag.Bot., I., p. 121.
- 1801. Isaria mucida Pers., Syn. Meth., p. 688.
- 1805. Ceratium hydnoides Alb. and Schw., Consp. Fung., p. 358.
- 1829. Ceratium hydnoides Fries, Syst. Myc., p. 294.
- 1872. Ceratium hydnoides Woronin and Famintzin, Mem. Acad. Imp., St. Peteraburg.
- 1887. Ceratium hydnoides De Bary, Comp. Morph. Fun., p. 432.
- 1889. Ceratiomyxa mucida Schroeter, Eng. u. Prautl Nat. Pflanz., I. i., p. 16.
- 1893. Ceratiomyxa mucida Macbride, Bull.Nat.Hist.Ia., II., p. 114.
- 1894. Ceratiomyka mucida Lister, The Mycetozoa, p. 25.

Macbride: Plasmodium in rotten wood, white or nearly transparent; when fruiting, forming on the substratum mould-like patches composed of the minute sporiferous pillars, generally in clusters of three or more together; spores white, ovoid or ellipsoidal, smooth, 10-12x6...

Saccardo adopts the name Ceratium hydnoides (Jacq.)

Alb. and Schw. He gives the color as white or yellow, and the spores as ovoid 10-12 by 8 μ , or globose 10 μ in diameter. He finds the spores to be minutely guttulate and hyaline.

Lister adopts the name Ceratiomyxa mucida Schroet.

"Sporophores white or pinkish-yellow, membranous, either rising from a common hypothallus in a tuft of simple or forked, fasciculate obtuse branches, 1 mm. or more high, .07 mm. thick, or more or less interwoven in broad perforated bands, from which arise irregular and anastomosing lobes; the membranous wall is divided, chiefly on the upper part of the sporophore, into somewhat hexagonal areolae about 10 M broad; a membranous stalk bearing the spore arises from the center of each areola. Spores 10x6 to 13x7 M."

The above descriptions are excellent for this species. I find spores that are ovoid or ellipsoid, 8-11 by 6-8 μ , and globose ones 10-11 μ in dismeter.

I found a small specimen of this species in Cemetery woods October 14, 1903. In February, 1904, some chips under a bell-jar in our Herbarium Room produced some of this species, giving me good material for microscope slides. April 25, 1904, in our greenhouse, a piece of decayed poplar 3 ft. by 6 in. suddenly became nearly covered with the fruiting-bodies. It looked like a small snow-drift and