

**A TREATISE ON THE
ESCULENT FUNGUSES
OF ENGLAND**

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A Treatise on the Esculent Funguses of England by Charles David Badham

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CHARLES DAVID BADHAM

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THE
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A TREATISE
ON THE
ESCULENT FUNGUSES
OF
ENGLAND,

CONTAINING
AN ACCOUNT OF THEIR CLASSICAL HISTORY, USES, CHARACTERS,
DEVELOPMENT, STRUCTURE, NUTRITIOUS PROPERTIES,
MODES OF COOKING AND PRESERVING, ETC.

BY
CHARLES DAVID BADHAM, M.D.

EDITED BY FREDERICK CURREY, M.A., F.R.S., F.L.S.

Πολλὰ μὲν ἴσθλα μεμυγμένα πολλὰ δὲ λυγρὰ.—HOMER.



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1863.

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PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.



My lamented friend Dr. Badham having died since the first publication of this work, my advice was asked upon the subject of the preparation of a new edition. It was wished that the text of the work should be altered as little as possible, and that the price of the book should be materially lessened. The latter object could not be effected without reducing the number of the Plates; but it appeared to me that some plates relating to details of structure might very well be omitted, as well as the figures of a few Italian species which, although interesting in themselves, are quite unnecessary in a book on British Esculent Fungi. With the exception of the omission of the description of these latter species, and the addition of the description of two other species hereafter referred to, the alterations in the text are too trifling to require notice. With regard to the Figures in this edition, most of them are those of the former plates, somewhat reduced; a few have been taken from the plates of Mr. Berkeley's 'Outlines of British Fungology,' and a few from original and other sources.

By a re-arrangement of the whole, the reduction in the number of the Plates has been effected, and, at the same time, figures of all the Fungi represented in the first edition have been given, as well as of two other species not there noticed.

I should observe, however, that by a mistake of the artist an extra figure of the Horse Mushroom has been inserted in Plate IV. instead of one of the Common Mushroom.

The two species above alluded to which were not figured in the first edition, are *Tuber æstivum* and *Helvella esculenta*. The former must have been inadvertently omitted by Dr. Badham, as it has long been known as abundant in certain parts of England. *Helvella esculenta*, although alluded to by Dr. Badham, was not at that time known to be a British species. It has since been observed near Weybridge in Surrey, where it occurs almost every spring. The plant figured in Pl. XV. fig. 6 of the first edition under the name of *Lycoperdon plumbeum*, is not that species, but *Lycoperdon pyriforme*; it will be found at Pl. VIII. fig. 5. Dr. Badham states that all puff-balls are esculent, but, judging from the smell of *Lycoperdon pyriforme*, I should much doubt whether it would make an agreeable dish. *Lycoperdon plumbeum* is now better known as *Bovista plumbea*, and *Lycoperdon Bovista* as *Lycoperdon giganteum*.

There is some confusion about the synonymy of the plants described by Dr. Badham as *Agaricus prunulus* and *Ag. exquisitus*. It is unnecessary to discuss the matter here, and I have thought it not desirable under the circumstances to alter Dr. Badham's nomenclature. They appear to be described in Mr. Berkeley's work as *Ag. gambosus*, Fr., and *Ag. arvensis*, Schæff.

Dr. Badham's observations on the spores of Fungi must be read in connection with the note added by him at the conclusion of the work; and to those who are interested in that part of the subject I should recommend the perusal of the seventh chapter of Mr. Berkeley's 'Outlines of British Fungology,' and Tulasne's recent work, 'Selecta Fungorum Carpologia.'

Mr. Cooke, in his 'Plain and Easy Account of British Fungi,' recently published, mentions some species as esculent which are not noticed in this work. I have however no experience of their qualities, and must refer the reader to Mr. Cooke's book for further information. He mentions Mr. Berkeley as an authority for considering *Agaricus rubescens* as suspicious; but, from long experience, I can vouch for its being not only wholesome, but, as Dr. Badham says, "a very delicate fungus."

F. C.