

petites" of budding mycologists, rather complete bibliographies by the most outstanding authors on the various groups are included at the end of each chapter.

The writer is not actively engaged in teaching of mycology but has heard very favorable reports from those who have used the text-book in their class work. This volume has been out nearly a year and it had been hoped that a more extended review might be presented by some active teacher of mycology. In the absence of this, the present announcement will suffice. The text-book is very fittingly dedicated to the memories of two great teachers, his illustrious father, Charles E. Bessey, and Georg Klebs.—F. J. SEEVER.

AN ANCIENT ROMAN TOADSTOOL CARVED IN STONE

In his article "An ancient Roman toadstool carved in stone" in *MYCOLOGIA* (21: 143-144, 1929), John W. Harshberger writes about a visit to the ruins at Tiugad (Algeria), a town founded by the legate, P. Munatius Gallus, by order of the Roman emperor Trajan about 100 A.D. In the chief market place Mr. Harshberger found two large blocks of stone, one of which was "characterized by a design of *Acanthus* leaves surrounding a centrally placed stone toadstool, carved so that the gills and related stipe with basal volva are clearly shown. The stone figure has been identified as a toadstool, although with its volva, it probably represents some poisonous, pileate, lamellate, fleshy toadstool known to the ancient artist, who designed the architectural ornamentation of the Tingad market place. Do we not have in this stone carving the earliest known representation of a fleshy, gill-bearing fungus, dating back to the second century A.D.?" (Harshberger, l.c.)

When I saw the excellent photograph in *MYCOLOGIA* I identified the stone figure as *Volvaria speciosa* (= *V. gloiocephala*).

For a long time in Europe this fungus had been considered very poisonous, although Persoon stated that it was edible. Herrfurth in Germany, and Bresadola in Austria, ate it during the Great War, and Dearness (*Volvaria speciosa*, *MYCOLOGIA* 23: 152-153, 1931) in America in 1930. The examinations of Mr. Gauthier, Menier, and Monnier have proved the fungus to be

edible. According to R. Maire's report the fungus is offered for sale in large quantities at the markets in Algeria. By the carving in stone the ancient Roman artist wanted to show a well-known merchandise, and not a poisonous fungus. I am sure the ancient Romans did not consider a pileate, lamellate, fleshy toadstool with volva to be poisonous, because their favorite mushroom, the *Amanita caesarea*, is a pileate, lamellate, fleshy fungus with volva.—HEINRICH LOHWAG, President, Austrian Mycological Society.

THE SYNONYMY OF BOTRYTIS RILEYI FARLOW

Botrytis Rileyi, the fungus producing the cholera disease of insects was described by Farlow in 1883 from material on larvae of *Plusia Brassicae* (*Autographa Brassicae*).¹ The spores were described as borne in whorls and catenulate and the fungus therefore can not be referred properly to the genus *Botrytis*.²

In 1903, Maublanc³ established the genus *Nomuraea* which he named in honor to Nomura who sent him specimens of *Pionia forficatis* affected by the fungus, which he called *Nomuraea prasina*. The generic description shows this fungus to be a *Spicaria*, a fact recognized by Sawada in his Descriptive Catalogue of the Formosan Fungi (1919, p. 606), the new combination being *Spicaria prasina* (Maubl.) Saw.

Petch, in one of his papers on entomogenous fungi⁴ discusses *Botrytis Rileyi* and its possible identity with *Spicaria prasina* and states that the fungus on specimens of *Anticarsia gemmatilis* sent him from Florida is *Spicaria prasina*. However, mycologists in the United States have determined this fungus as *Botrytis Rileyi*. Clements and Shear in their Genera of Fungi (1931, p. 203) separate *Nomuraea* and *Spicaria* solely on the character of their habitat, *Nomuraea* being described as entomogenous and *Spicaria* as phytogenous. Thus distinction does not appear to have been generally recognized, Petch and other mycologists having assigned a number of entomogenous forms to the genus *Spicaria*. In view of the close morphological affinities of *Botrytis Rileyi* with the

¹ Report of the U. S. Comm. Agr., p. 121, 1883.

² Maublanc, A. Sur quelques espèces nouvelles de champignons inférieurs. Bull. Soc. Myc. Fr. 19: 295-296, 1903.

³ Petch, T. Entomogenous Fungi. Trans. Brit. Myc. Soc. 11: 264, 1926.

Spicaria and the priority of the specific name, this genus should be designated as *Spicaria Rileyi* (Farl.)