probable that some similar change may take place in *Ædogonium*. The observation of the spores, therefore, in this genus, after their formation or separation from their parent-cells, presents another interesting subject of investigation.

The species of *Bulbochæte* on which the microgonidia are figured by Mr. Broome, appear to be *B. setigera* and *B. crassa*. The two species at any rate are different, for while the spores of *B. setigera* measure $\cdot 003$ in diameter, or $\frac{1}{333}'''$, in the other species they measure only $\cdot 0015$, or $\frac{1}{666}'''$. On the threads of the former a little parasitic species is also figured, which I believe to be undescribed, and has been named by Messrs. Broome and Thwaites *B. parasitica*. Microgonidia have not been observed in this species; but the specimens are so entangled with the threads on which they grow, that it is not possible to obtain a very clear view. The sketches, it should be observed, are mere hasty sketches for the sake of illustration, and were made without the slightest notion of being laid before the Society.

On a New Species of *Peziza*, being the full Development of *Sclerotium roseum*, Kneiff. By FREDERICK CURREY, Esq., F.L.S.

[Read June 17th, 1856.]

THE genus *Sclerotium* is one which, for a long time, has occupied a doubtful position in the family of the *Fungi*. After having been bandied about from one family to another, the opinion has for some time been gaining ground, that the *Sclerotia* are not autonomous productions, but are merely the mycelia of other *Fungi*, which being arrested in their growth whilst retaining their vitality, await only a favourable season for attaining their full development. There are numerous instances in which, by the observation of them in their natural condition or by cultivation, the *Sclerotia* have been ascertained to produce *Fungi* of various kinds and belonging to widely different families, but there is still a vast number in which no such subsequent development has been traced, and which in the mean time are necessarily retained in the genus *Sclerotium*. Under these circumstances, any new case in which the full development is observed must be a matter of interest to mycologists, and I have therefore thought it worth while to bring before the notice of the Society the following instance. The *Sclerotium* to which I allude is *Sclerotium roseum*, Kneiff, which is found in the interior of the stems of Bull-rushes and common

rushes, the pith of which it partially displaces. The fungus is oblong and almost cylindrical in shape, usually somewhat rounded at both ends, and varying in length from $\frac{1}{8}$ th to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch and upwards. Its surface is marked with longitudinal furrows, and I have observed that the fibres of the interior of the rush fit closely into these furrows. Like many other *Sclerotia*, its outer surface is formed of a layer of dark-coloured cells, making the body appear black to the naked eye, but which cells, when seen under a sufficient magnifying power, assume a brown hue. The internal cellular tissue is almost white, but with a decided tendency to rose-colour, a circumstance which has given rise to the specific name "*roseum*." It is worthy of remark that if a thin transverse section be placed under the microscope, it is seen to consist of a mass of densely packed thread-like cells which constitute the substance of the *Sclerotium*, and intermixed with these cells there is to be seen a quantity of the well-known stellate cells forming the pith of the rush. This fact shows that the *Sclerotium* has not altogether displaced the pith, but has grown round it, cutting off, and as it were incorporating with itself, a portion of such pith.

It was on the 23rd of April in the present year (1856), that in searching for Algæ in a pool on Paul's Cray Common, near Chislehurst, in Kent, I met with several specimens of a very elegant *Peziza* growing upon the last year's stems of some species of Rush, probably *Juncus conglomeratus*. Upon a closer examination I observed that the *Peziza* was not attached to the surface of the rush, but had emerged from the interior, causing a longitudinal fissure in its passage from within outwards; and upon splitting open the rush, a black tubercular body was visible which proved to be *Sclerotium roseum*, to which the stalk of the *Peziza* was attached, and from which in fact it grew. The cup was of a bright brown colour, varying somewhat in shape; in most of the specimens it was hemispherical, but in some cases infundibuliform; in one the edge of the cup was erect, extending beyond the equator of the hemisphere, and calling to mind the peculiar shape of *Peziza Persoonii* as figured in the 'Mycologia Europæa;' in other specimens the edge of the cup was recurved and sinuous. The number of *Pezizæ* growing from each *Sclerotium* varied from two to thirteen, and the greater the number the less was the size of each individual. The diameter of the largest cup was rather more than one-half, and of the smallest about $\frac{1}{6}$ th of an inch. The stalk was well developed, being generally about the length of the diameter of the cup, of a darker colour than the cup, and

tapering somewhat from above downwards. In one specimen the base of the stalk at its point of junction with the *Sclerotium* was thickly covered with hairs.

The *Peziza* described has not been hitherto observed, but there is another well-known species which also grows from a Sclerotoid base to which it bears a considerable resemblance, viz. *Peziza tuberosa*, Bull. The cup of the latter generally grows to a larger size, and its stalk is usually much longer, but the two plants are so alike in shape and colour, that there might be some difficulty in distinguishing small detached specimens of *Peziza tuberosa* from large specimens of the new *Peziza*;—I say *detached* specimens, because the habits of growth of the two Fungi are so dissimilar that they could never be confounded in their natural habitats. *Peziza tuberosa* grows on the ground, its cup just appearing above the surface, and its stalk with the tuberosus extremity being buried sometimes to the depth of upwards of 2 inches in the earth. The other, having its nidus in the interior of rushes on the edge of a pool, grew almost, I may say quite, in the water. Another important mark of distinction is to be found in the spores, those of *Peziza tuberosa* being elliptical, whilst those of the rush-*Peziza* are narrow, and more or less arcuate. In conclusion I may mention that there is another *Sclerotium* (*Sclerotium sulcatum*, Desm.), which grows in the interior of the stems of *Carices*, just as *Sclerotium roseum* does in the interior of rushes. It has lately been observed by M. Durieu de Maisonneuve, that *Sclerotium sulcatum* under favourable circumstances becomes (like *Sclerotium roseum*) developed into a *Peziza*. I have not seen this latter *Peziza*, and am indebted to M. Tulasne for a notice of the fact.

My friend Mr. Berkeley, to whom I sent specimens, has marked my plant in his herbarium "*Peziza Curreyana*," and has requested me to adopt that name.

Description of the Kobo-tree, a new genus of *Leguminosæ*, collected by Dr. W. F. DANIELL, F.L.S., in Sierra Leone. By JOHN JOSEPH BENNETT, Esq., F.R.S., Sec. L.S.

[Read November 4th, 1856.]

GUIBOURTIA, *Benn.*

CHAR. GEN. *Calyx* bibracteatus, 4-sepalus; sepalis deciduis. *Corolla* nulla. *Stamina* 10, libera, æqualia. *Ovarium* compressum, pauci- (2-4-) ovulatum; stylo filiformi; stigmatibus ob-