

MYCETOZOA FOUND DURING THE SELBY FORAY.

By *Gulielma Lister, F.L.S.*

The visit of the British Mycological Society to Selby proved a successful one for those of the party who were interested in Mycetozoa. Owing to the Yorkshire Naturalists' Society holding its meeting at Selby about the same time, although starting a few days earlier, and combined expeditions being taken, the number of days for collecting were more than usual, and extended from Saturday, September 7th, to Friday, September 13th.

Sufficient rain had fallen in the previous weeks to make the woods and heaps of dead leaves thoroughly moist, and the weather during the time of the foray was, on the whole, fair.

Osgoodby Woods, Camblesforth Wood and Bishop's Wood were visited before the main party arrived; and Mycetozoa were collected under the able guidance of Mr. W. N. Cheesman.

On Tuesday, September 10th, Byram Park, with its fine lawns, groups of living and felled beeches, as well as denser woodland, was searched. Large developments of *Dictydiaethalium plumbeum*, both mature and in rose-red plasmodium, were found on beech logs. On another prostrate beech, growths of purple-brown sporangia of *Dictydium cancellatum* were seen extending interruptedly for a length of about twelve feet. Another dead beech stump yielded a conspicuous cushion-like mass of translucent white plasmodium an inch across, which, on being carefully removed, developed in a few days into a fine growth of *Stemonitis fusca* var. *confluens*—a completely aethalioid form without trace of stalks or columellae. In the denser woodland, the rare *Lycogala flavofuscum* was found at the foot of a tall elm, looking so much like a big grey puff-ball, that it was mistaken for one by its finder and broken open. The aethalium measured an inch across, and was produced at the base on one side into a curious pale yellow stalk-like strand of hypothallus. Under large hollies, deep beds of decaying leaves afforded a favourable haunt for many Mycetozoa. Here were found *Craterium aureum*, *C. minutum*, *Diderma effusum*, *Didymium nigripes*, *D. Clavus*, *D. squamulosum* and

Lamproderma scintillans. Altogether twenty-four species were seen that day. On Wednesday, September 11th, the Escrick Woods were visited. These consisted of plantations of young sycamore and Scots pine, and also of extensive young birch woods having a dense undergrowth of bracken sheltering old decaying stumps of birch; further on was older mixed woodland. Although only eight species of Mycetoza were collected, the list included *Colloderma oculatum*, recorded only once before in Yorkshire. It occurred in some abundance among moss and liverworts on old birch stumps; the shining dark-brown sporangia could hardly be detected without the aid of a lens, and even then were easily confused with the numerous minute beetle-mites (*Oribatidae*) that were slowly crawling about the same moss. Some of this moss brought indoors and kept moist has produced fresh crops of *Colloderma* sporangia up to the end of October. Parlington Park was visited on Thursday, September 12th, a rather gloomy and showery day, but affording the party a harvest of thirty-three species of Mycetoza. The most noteworthy of these was perhaps *Physarum psittacinum*, on dead ash wood; it appears to be a completely summer species, and was found lingering on in a mouldy condition. *Badhamia panicea* and *Physarum compressum* were seen on a felled sycamore within a few feet of each other; the two species seem to be frequently associated. *Didymium melanospermum* occurred, as usual, on coniferous wood; *Physarum sinuosum* and *Diderma hemisphericum* were also found. On Friday, September 13th, search was made in Staynor Wood. Here oak was the prevalent tree, with some undergrowth of bramble and much of bracken, neither of which yielded Mycetoza in any abundance. On some old yew stumps were found three species of *Cribraria*, a genus usually frequenting coniferous wood. The species were *C. rufa*, *C. aurantiaca* and *C. intricata*; the last is common in the tropics and in the United States of America, but rare in Britain; it does not appear to have been recorded before from Yorkshire. In a stretch of swampy ground, under sycamores, the dead leaves and lower parts of stems of yellow iris and gipsywort were adorned with a magnificent growth of *Diachaea leucopoda*, extending intermittently over an area of about forty-eight square yards. In the same swamp a specimen of the elegant var. *tenerrima* of *Comatricha pulchella* was found.

The following list gives the species recorded during the whole foray. *O.* stands for Osgoodby Woods, *C.* for Camblesforth, *B.* for Bishop's Wood, *By.* for Byram Park, *E.* for Escrick, *P.* for Parlington, and *S.* for Staynor Wood.

- Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa* (Muell.) Macbr., O., C., By.
Badhamia panicea (Fr.) Rost., B., P.
B. utricularis (Bull.) Berk., C., P.
Physarum nutans Pers. Found daily.
P. viride (Bull.) Pers., By., P., S.
P. psittacinum Ditm., P.
P. compressum Alb. & Schw., P.
P. sinuosum (Bull.) Weinm., P.
P. cinereum Pers., B., P.
Fuligo septica (L.) Gmel. O., By.
Leocarpus fragilis (Dicks.) Rost., O., E., S.
Craterium aureum (Schum.) Rost., By.
C. minutum (Leers) Fries., C., By., P., S.
Diderma effusum (Schw.) Morg., By.
D. hemisphericum (Bull.) Hornem., P.
Diachaea leucopoda (Bull.) Rost., S.
Didymium difforme (Pers.) Duby, O., C., P., S.
D. Clavus (Alb. & Schw.) Fr., By.
D. nigripes Fr., By.
D. melanospermum (Pers.) Macbr., P., var. *minus* Lister, P.
D. squamulosum (Alb. & Schw.) Fr., O., C., By., E.
Colloderma oculatum (Lipp.) G. Lister, E.
Stemonitis fusca Roth., O., P., S., var. *confluens* List., By.
S. flavogenita Jahn., By., P.
Comatricha nigra (Pers.) Schroet. Found daily.
C. pulchella (Ch. Bab.) Rost., var. *tenerrima* Lister, S.
C. typhoides (Bull.) Rost., C., E.
Lamproderma scintillans (Berk. & Br.) Morg., By.
Enerthenema papillatum (Pers.) Rost., P.
Cribraria rufa (Roth.) Rost., S.
C. aurantiaca Schrad., S.
C. intricata Schrad., S.
Dictydium cancellatum (Batsch) Macbr., By., P.
Dictydiaethalium plumbeum (Schum.) Rost., By., P.
Reticularia Lycoperdon Bull., C., P.
Lycogala flavofuscum (Ehr.) Rost., By.
L. epidendrum (L.) Fr., C., By., P.
Trichia persimilis Karst., C., P.
T. scabra Rost., P.
T. varia Pers., O., C., By., P.
T. contorta (Ditm.) Rost., By.
T. decipiens (Pers.) Macbr., By., P.
T. Botrytis Pers., C., P.
Hemitrichia Vesparium (Batsch) Macbr., O.
Arcyria ferruginea Saut., O.
A. denudata (L.) Sheldon, By., P., S.

- A. incarnata* Pers., By., P., S.
A. cinerea (Bull.) Pers., By., E., P., S.
A. pomiformis (Leers) Rost., C., P., S.
A. nutans (Bull.) Grev., C., By., E., P., S.
Perichaena corticalis (Batsch) Fr., P.
P. depressa (Lib.) Rost., By., P.

This makes a total of fifty-two species, and is the second largest list of Mycetozaa recorded on our forays. The wonderful Forres visit in 1912 yielded eighty-one species, that of Swansea, in 1915, forty-seven species; Shrewsbury in 1916 and Wrexham in 1910 each gave us forty-four species; Haslemere, in 1913, forty-two species; and Doncaster, in 1914, thirty-six species.

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By the Very Rev. David Paul, LL.D., D.D.

ON THE EARLIER STUDY OF FUNGI IN BRITAIN.

It was natural that, among those who in ancient times began to observe the vegetable world, and to unite its individual productions into groups, attention should have first been directed to the Flowering Plants. The striking beauty of so many of them, their wonderful diversity in form and colour and fragrance, and the manifold ways in which they could be made use of for the advantage of man, early arrested the eye, and stimulated curiosity, and led to their closer study. But Fungi had a hard fight to be included in the awakened interest in trees and shrubs and herbs, and it is only in comparatively recent times that they have won their way to adequate recognition. No doubt Theophrastus, three hundred years before Christ, wrote a History of Plants which is still extant, in which he makes many references to these lower and less conspicuous plants, and a hundred years later Dioscorides compiled a Treatise on *Materia Medica* which was for many centuries received as a standard authority, and in which Fungi are not overlooked. Then soon after the middle of the first century of our era Pliny the Elder wrote his *Historia Naturalis*. It is