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## A Continuation of the Study of the Myxomycetes in the Vicinity of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

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## A Continuation of the Study of the Myxomycetes in the Vicinity of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

By JEAN MORROW AND KEITH SHAVER

This study of the Myxomycetes of Henry County is a continuation of the project started at Iowa Wesleyan College two years ago and continued last year.

Our entire supply of material for study this year came from natural sources whereas in the past, part of the material has been collected from a moist chamber. The slime molds were, without exception, collected from moist decaying wood found in secluded shady places.

All specimens were, after collection, stored in properly labeled match boxes, to be used for further examination. The microscope slides of glycerine mounts, used in classification of spores and capillitium, were labeled and kept for future reference.

This year the following Myxomycetes are being reported:

1. *Hemitrichia clavata* (Pers.) Rost. This species was collected on a rotten log. The yellow sporangia are short stalked and clavate. The bright yellow capillitium protrudes out of the rather deep calyculus forming a loose hanging network. The capillitium has four or five rough spirals and obtuse tips. The spores range between 7 and 9 u. Distribution is reported common.

2. *Hemitrichia minor* G. Lister. This species was collected on bark, the yellow capillitium, of four twisted threads, flowing from the sessile sporangia forming a yellow mass. The spores measure 9 or 10 u. Distribution is reported common.

3. *Ophiotheca wrightii* Berk. and Curt. This species was collected from a well rotted log. This form was a most interesting sight because of the annular, looped shape of the sporangia. The capillitium consists of branched, spined threads of a loose bright yellow nature. The spores measure, usually either 9 or 10 u. Distribution is reported common.

4. *Perichaena depressa* Libert. This species was found on dead wood. The sporangia are red brown, sessile and crowded into polygonal shapes. The top is flattened with circumscissile dehiscence forming a lid which curls back. The capillitium breaks out of the sessile sporangia forming an abundant yellow network. The spores are 10 to 12 u. Distribution is reported throughout North America.

5. *Trichia decipiens* (Pers.) Macbr. This species was found on rotting wood. The sporangia are turbinate, shining olive yellow with dark brown stipes. The sporangia are scattered. The capillitium

spore mass is yellow. The elaters have four widely spaced spirals without spines and with smooth tapering apices. The spores are 12 or 13 u, pale and faintly reticulated. Superficially this species resembles *Hemitrichia clavata*. The distribution is reported as not rare.

6. *Trichia iowensis* Macbr. This species was found on rotting wood. The sporangia are sessile and gregarious and brown. The conspicuous capillitial spore mass is yellow. The elaters have three spiral bands unevenly distributed. There are spines at the places of inflation and two or three spines at the acuminate tip. The spores measure 9 or 10 u and are somewhat warted. This species is reported from Iowa, Missouri and South Dakota on *Populus*.

Besides the following keys, a reference collection, kindly given by G. W. Martin was used for classification. Macbride and Martin was used as authority.

#### References

1. Greene, *Wisconsin Myxomycetes*, 1932-reprinted from the Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts and Letters, Vol. 27, pp. 141-182.
2. Hagelstein, *The Mycetozoa of North America*, 1944.
3. Macbride and Martin, *The Myxomycetes*, 1934.

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