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SIMBLUM SPHAEROCEPHALUM IN IOWA.

BY HENRY S. CONARD.

In October, 1911, a student at Grinnell College, Miss Winale Gilbert, brought in a specimen of the pink stink-horn, *Simblum sphaerocephalum* Schlecht. It was found on the north bank of a deep railroad cut, a mile west of town. Further search in this place resulted in the collection of several mature specimens and a number of "eggs." They grew about half way up the slope, facing south, on Marshall silt loam that had slid down the bank, and about at the level of the boundary between the loess and the glacial drift. Perhaps there are special moisture conditions at this level, though other vegetation does not suggest this. With them were *Poa pratensis* as dominant plant, as well as *Acer negundo* seedlings, *Physalis* species, *Aster* species, etc. Two or three weeks later my colleague, Prof. H. W. Norris, found specimens on a hillside above Skunk River, three miles southwest of Turner station.

Through the kindness of Professor Macbride of Iowa State University, I learn that this fungus was reported some years ago by Professor Bessey, but is quite rare in the state.

Our material is too old to admit of cytological study. On account of the excessive minuteness of spores and basidia, this would be very difficult. The spores are narrowly ellipsoid, and measure 0.003 mm. x 0.0015 mm.

Simblum may be described as a small *Clathrus*, on the stalk of a *Phallus*. Our specimens range from 6.5 to 10 cm. tall, with stalks and heads 1 to 2 cm. in diameter. The volva is white, stalk pale pink or flesh color, the receptacle pink and spore mass dull brown. The odor was disagreeable, unlike anything else, but not very strong. The eggs are from 2 to 3 cm. tall and 1 to 2 cm. in diameter, spherical above, tapering below, and terminating in one to three rhizomorphs 2 mm. in diameter and 2 to 3 cm. long. The gelatinous layer is traversed by denser trabeculae. The plant is clearly a member of the *Clathraceae*.