



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Lebanon, Hamilton co., Ohio.

Apr. 18, 1872.

Prof. Chas. E. Bessey

Dear Sir, The box of
Cuffballs came duly to hand.
I worked them over this forenoon
and find them as follows:

No 1. *Scleroderma vulgare*, Horn.
var. *moniliforme*, Fr.

2. *Tylosioma campuriae*, Morg.

3. This is something new to me.

I think it is a *Melanogaster* near

M. variegatus, Vitt., possibly

M. tuberiformis, Coker.

4. The larger ones are
Catantoma circumcissum, B. & C.

The smaller ones
Catantoma subterraneum, Beck.

I never before saw such large
C. circumcissum. The two species

came together from the west very
commonly and may correspond to
say they grow together. But I find
only C. circumscissum here; it grows
abundantly about my premises. I have
never seen the C. subterraneum from
the eastern states anywhere.

The Arachnium comes mixed with
them occasionally also from the west.

5. Catantoma circumscissum, B. & C.

6. Catantoma subterraneum, Lick

7. Gaster delicatus, Morg. (mostly)

I never saw a specimen as young
and fresh before; there above the
peridium decidedly funicular;
they also indicate that the segments
are strongly hygroscopic.

I picked out a couple of
Gaster monomeres, Chev. which have
a regular ciliate-fimbriate mouth
seated in a circular orifice.

8. *Myceastrum apiculatum* Peck.
 A young specimen. I judge
 these things are a long time
 growing. Cooke has made a species
 by the color inside, but my
 studies of *Bovista fida*, B & C.
 hindered me from doing this.

Berkley and Masson have each
 made an extra species out of the
 latter.

If some student would make
 a study of the *Myceastrum* it
 would be exceedingly interesting
 to us who have never seen it
 growing.

The threads in *Myceastrum* are
 much more easily picked out from
 among the spores and viewed than
 in *Bovista*. I state that the threads
 in these genera originate within the
~~stroma~~ stroma of the gleba, but I do
 not know how. I do not know whether
 they point of attachment is at one
 end or between the extremities. DuRoi

assumes that the point of attachment
is somewhere on the primary stem.

But he did not seem to observe that
the thorns in *Quercus* and *Liquidambar*
are fastened by one firm extremity.

Very Truly Yours,

A. D. Morgan.