

SOME FUNGI THAT ARE RARE OR HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED FROM ILLINOIS

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With two exceptions the mushrooms described below have not, to my knowledge, been previously reported from Illinois. The exceptions have only recently been reported by Mr. C. G. Lloyd, one of them as a new species, his report in each case being based on collections made by me. They are included here because they are of special interest.

My object in reporting these species at this time is twofold. In the first place, if I am not mistaken about their not having been reported from Illinois, they ought to be placed on record as occurring in this state. In the second place I have hopes that I may stimulate others to collect these larger fungi and especially to report what they have found. I am not myself so much interested in the systematic or taxonomic study of these mushrooms as in their distribution and ecology and what I have found has been the result of chance rather than of long hunting. But no one has ever collected the higher fungi extensively in this state and I am convinced that were a competent person to do so it would result in the discovery of a considerable number of undescribed species.

ASCOMYCETES

Bulgaria inquinans Fr. (*Fig. 1*)—This plant is not rare but is easily overlooked and is not often found in lists of collected fungi. It grows on partly decayed and usually partly buried oak sticks in woods. The larger specimens become 4.5 cm. broad and 3 cm. high. The receptacle is at first closed but soon opens, forming a cup, and may later become a nearly plane disk. The stem is short or sometimes entirely lacking. The plant is dark brown or almost black and rough or wrinkled on the outside. The disk of the cup is smooth and lighter colored. But the most striking characteristic of the plant is that it is very tough and

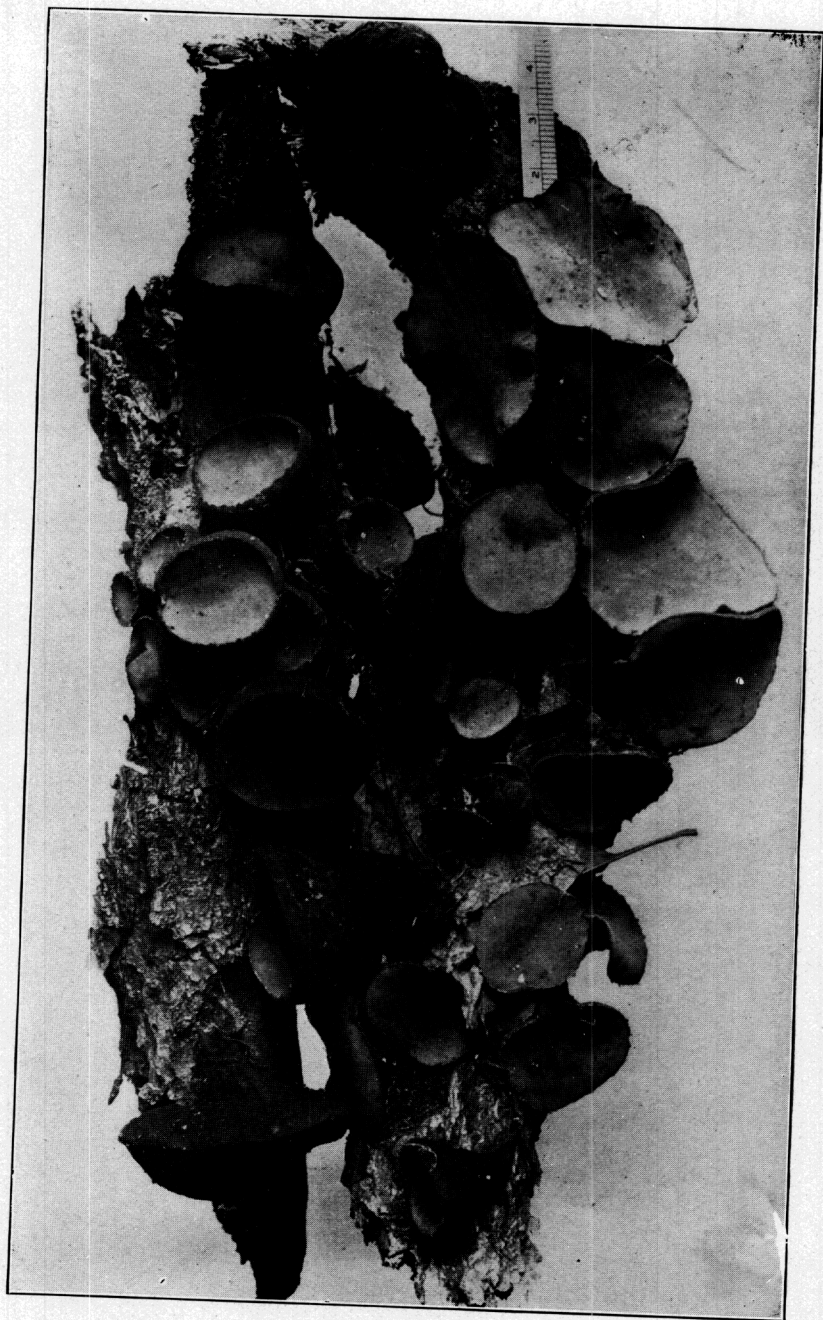


Fig. 1. *Bulgaria inquinans*



Fig 2. *Leotia lubrica*

elastic and internally gelatinous. Its edibility so far as I know has not been tested but it does not look nor feel very inviting and is probably to be classed as non-poisonous but also non-edible. The specimens shown in the photograph were collected in a woods near Urbana.

Leotia lubrica Pers. (*Fig. 2*)—This plant like the preceding one is not at all rare and the only excuse for including it here is to put it on record as occurring in Illinois. It usually grows in clusters 5 to 8 cm. tall with the individual caps 1 to 3 cm. broad. The cap is irregularly hemispherical and usually somewhat wrinkled. The whole plant is of a peculiar yellowish green color. It is said to be edible but not of good quality. It grows in the woods often among mosses. The specimens photographed were found in the Forestry of the University of Illinois.

BASIDIOMYCETES

Craterellus cornucopioides Fr. (*Fig. 3*)—The “horn of plenty”, as this plant is called is easily overlooked because of its blackish-brown color. It is trumpet-shaped, hollow to the base, and sometimes as much as 10 cm. high though more often not more than half that. It does not look very palatable but is edible and is said to be very good. It also dries well and so can be kept for future use. The specimens photographed were collected in an open upland woods in Vermilion County in September.

Polyporus giganteus (Pers.) Fr. (*Fig. 4*)—This plant reminds one of the common *P. frondosus* but the branches of the pileus are fewer in number, larger, and thicker. It is characterized also by the fact that it turns black where bruised and blackens also in drying. The plant is edible but like all the edible species of this genus it is good only when young and tender. The photograph shows a plant collected within the City of Urbana. It was growing on the ground near a buried stump.

Polyporus robiniophilus (Murrill) Lloyd (*Fig. 5*)—Named robiniophilus because it was first found on locust this plant has since been found as a wound parasite on various deciduous trees but most frequently on locust, hackberry and maple. The fine large specimen photographed grew on a hackberry in Urbana. It was produced from a wound about 15 feet above the ground and after it

had been removed several other smaller ones grew from the same place. The tree was finally so weakened at this point that it was blown over during a storm. When fresh the pileus is somewhat watery but firm, whitish, and smooth or nearly so. The context or flesh is white, soft and punky, and has a sweetish odor when dry. The tubes are 0.3 to 1 cm. long, the mouths small and white.

Polyporus induratus Lloyd (Fig. 6)—Three specimens of this plant have been collected from a box elder stump near the University campus in Urbana. Since it was new to me I sent a specimen to Mr. C. G. Lloyd of Cincinnati. It proved to be new to him also and he named it as above and reported it with a brief description in his Letter No. 68, page 11, note 743. It is a large plant, extremely tough and spongy when fresh, and becoming hard and punky when dry. The whole plant is light colored when fresh but turns black where bruised or wounded and darkens in drying. The tubes are very minute and only 3 to 5 mm. long.

Polyporus dryadeus (Pers.) Fr. (Fig. 7)—This plant is considered rare and is usually reported as growing on living oak trees. The specimen shown in the photograph was found on an old oak stump north of Urbana. I am indebted to Dr. L. O. Overholts for its identification. When fresh the pileus is spongy and somewhat watery, grayish brown in color and glabrous. The context is also brown and becomes somewhat brittle when dry. The tubes are small but sometimes as much as 2 cm. long.

Entoloma grayanum Pk. (Fig. 8)—*Entoloma* is a dangerous genus and this species like its near relatives is probably somewhat poisonous. It is a very ordinary looking mushroom growing 6 to 8 cm. tall with its gray or drab colored cap 3 to 6 cm. broad. The gills are attached and there is no ring on the stem. The spore when caught on paper are light salmon color. The specimens photographed were collected in the University woods near Urbana.

Stropharia caesifolia Pk. (Fig. 9)—One morning while collecting *Agaricus campestris* in a cemetery north of Urbana I chanced to pick up a specimen which looked the same as the others but which on turning it over I found to have beautiful light blue gills instead of the familiar pink. Closer examination showed that the gills were attached and indicated that it was a *Stropharia* instead of an

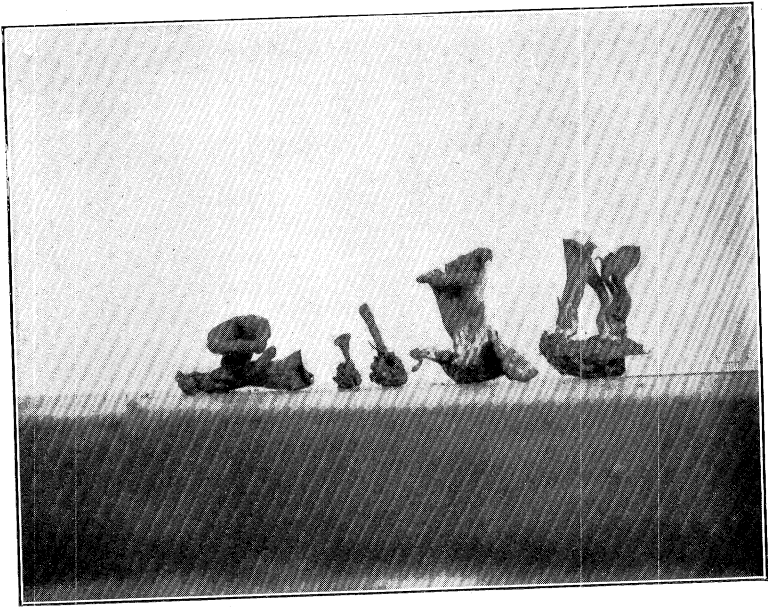


Fig. 3. *Craterellus cornucopioides*

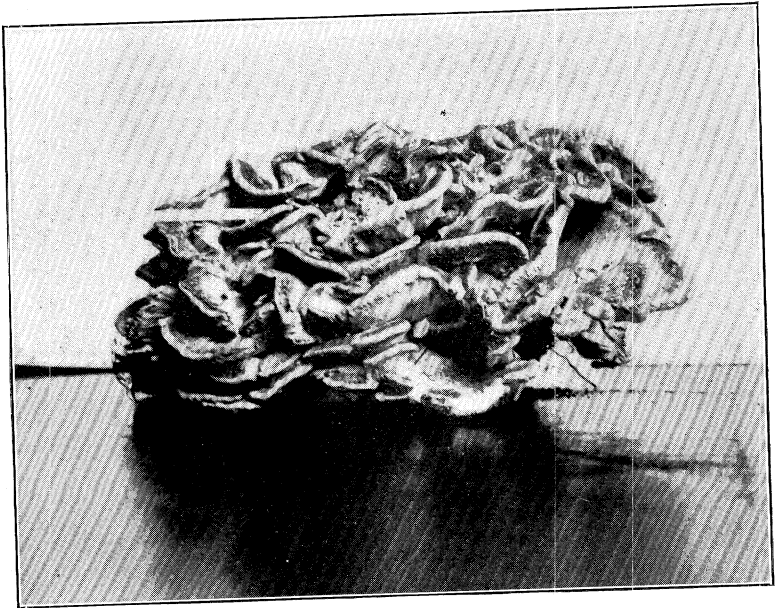


Fig. 4 *Polyporus giganteus*



Fig. 3. *Craterellus cornucopioides*

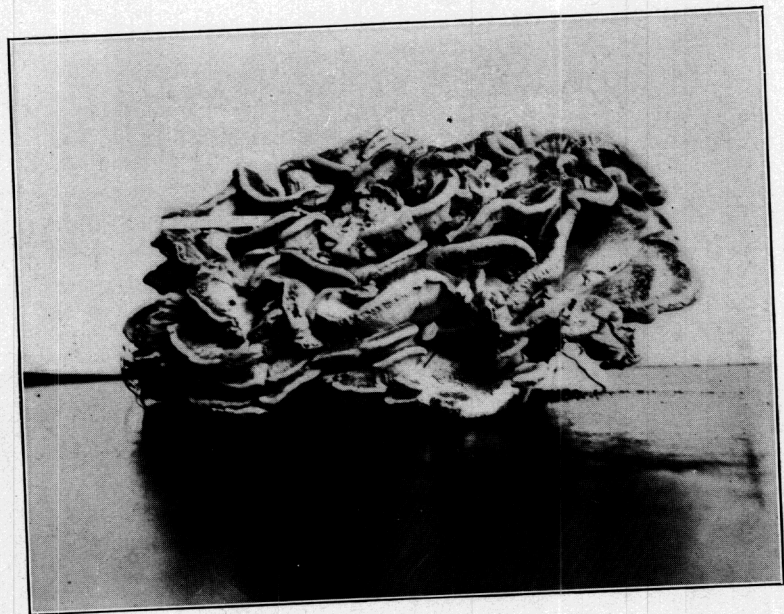


Fig. 4. *Polyporus giganteus*

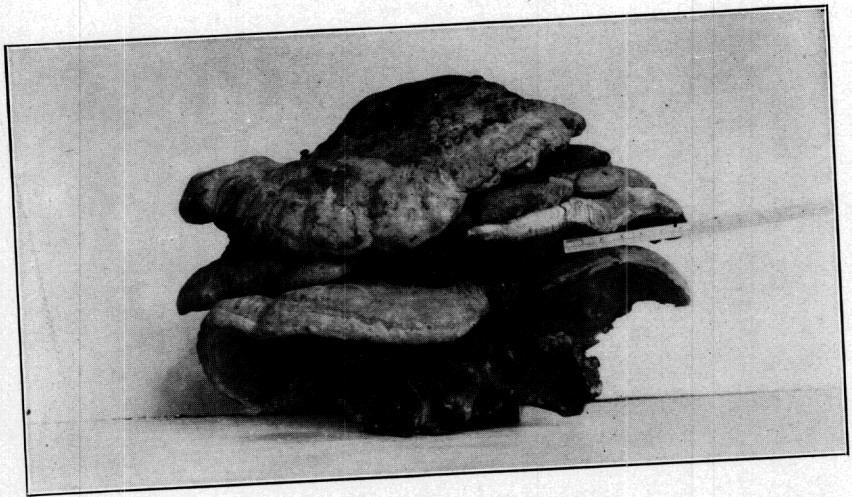


Fig. 5. *Polyporus robiniophilus*

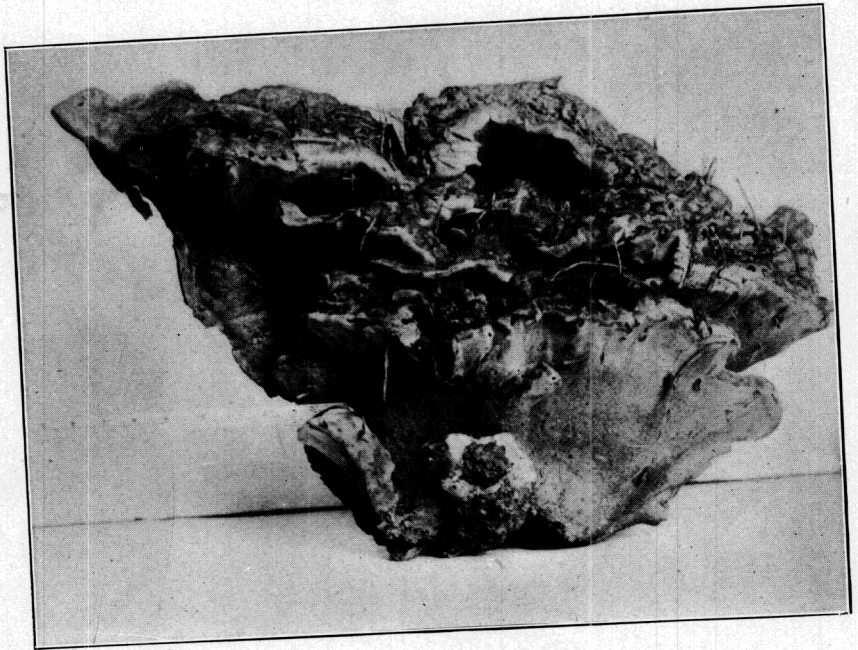


Fig. 6. *Polyporus induratus*

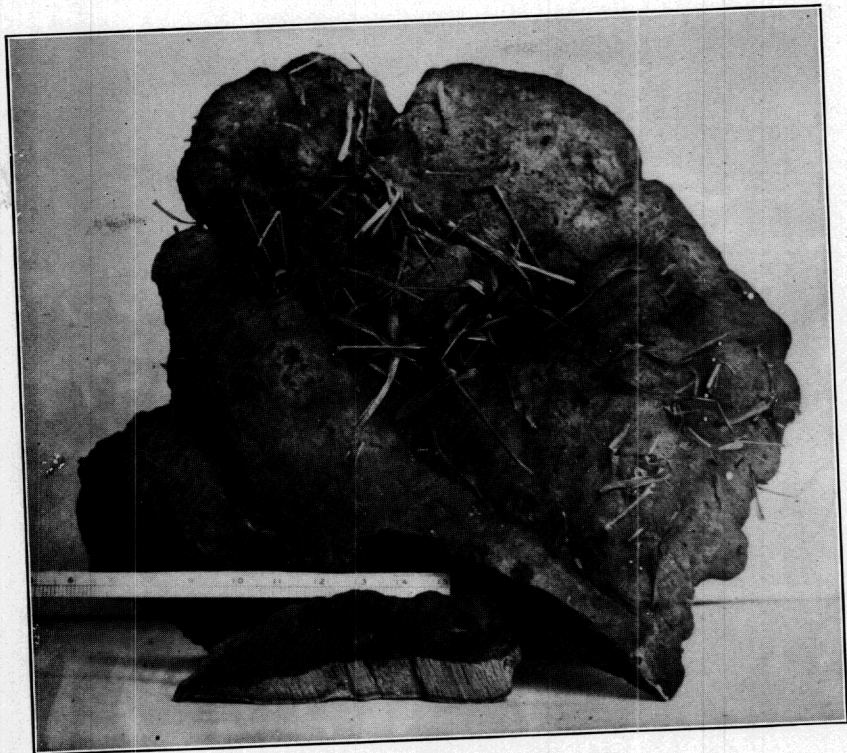


Fig. 7. *Polyporus dryadens*

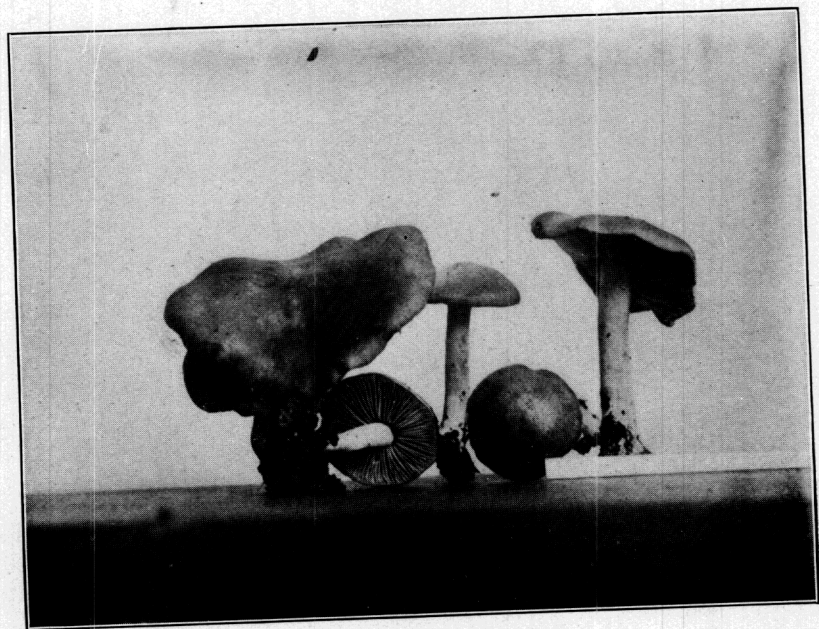


Fig. 8. *Entolma grayanum*

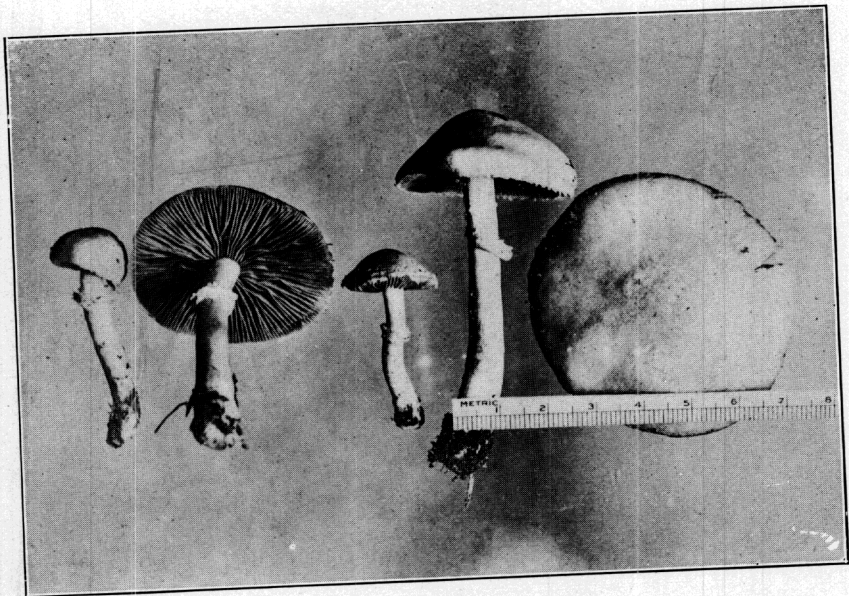


Fig. 9. *Stropharia caesifolia*

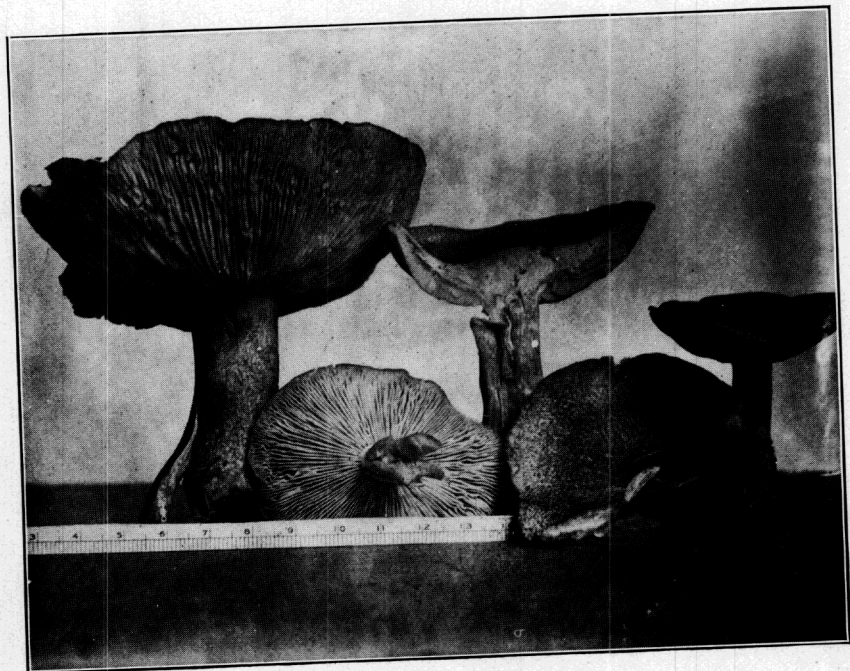


Fig. 10. *Tricholoma rutilans*

Agaricus. I later found other specimens growing along with the common mushroom. I photographed some of them but for a long time was unable to identify them. Finally I found that the plant was described by Peck¹ in 1895 from a collection sent to him from Kansas. So far as I know it has not been mentioned by anyone since that time. It grows 6 to 8 cm. tall and the caps become as much as 6 cm. broad. The ring is very prominent and the spores are purple brown. The color of the gills alone will identify it. Its edibility has not been tested.

Tricholoma rutilans Schaeff (*Fig. 10*)—This is a species that one would not expect to find commonly in Illinois since it grows only on pine wood or occasionally on hemlock. Nevertheless the plants shown in the photograph were collected in Champaign County. They were growing on a pine stump in the Forestry at the University of Illinois. It is rather a pretty plant, the surface of the cap as well as the lower part of the stem being dark red or purplish. The larger specimens become 10 cm. tall and 10 cm. broad. The spores are white, the gills attached, and there is no ring. This species is said to be edible and of good quality although the flesh is somewhat gummy when cooked.

Panus strigosus B. and C.—The hairy Panus was found on living willow along the Sangamon River near the western boundary of Champaign County. This collection was noted by Lloyd in Letter No. 67, page 16, note 691, as the first collection from the west although the species is not uncommon in the east. The plants collected were partly eaten by insects and so not fit to photograph. An excellent photograph was published by Lloyd in Mycological Notes, page 747. Both stem and cap are covered when young with fine soft hairs which become long and stiff as the plant becomes older. The larger specimens are 8 to 10 cm. broad and have stems 6 to 10 cm. long. The gills are slightly decurrent and the spores white. It is edible when young but soon becomes tough.

¹ Bull. Torrey Bot. Club. 22:489.

² Since writing the above I have learned that Dr. Peppoon collected this plant several years ago in Jo Davess County.