

THE OCCURRENCE OF THE RARE ALGA, GLOEOTAE-  
NIUM, IN ILLINOIS.

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This Alga, *Gloeotaenium Loitlesbergerianum* Hansg. was first described by Hansgirg<sup>1</sup> in 1890 from material collected in Austria. It has since been found at other places in Austria, Italy and the East Indies.<sup>2</sup> In the "Pflanzenfamilien," Wille gives a description which is incorrect in several respects and places it among the doubtful genera of the Desmidiaceae.<sup>3</sup> In 1905 it was described by G. S. West<sup>4</sup> from the island of Trinidad, and classified near the genus *Gloeocystis*, among the Chaetophoraceae. Collins<sup>5</sup> follows the description of West and gives Trinidad as the only station in the western hemisphere.

During the summer of 1910, the writer collected numerous specimens of this plant at Charleston. The habitat is an area of about two square meters on the northeast corner of a small artificial pond made by the removal of clay for the manufacture of tiles. The water is very shallow, not over a foot in depth when the water is highest. Although numerous collections have been made at other points in this pond and adjoining ponds, no other station was found. The collections made later than September have thus far yielded no specimens. A point of additional interest in connection with the habitat is that the pond has been in existence about twenty years. The alga as found here consists of two or four celled families. It is of such size and striking appearance that it is not likely to be overlooked when even a picture of it has once been seen. Here is an opportunity for the imagination to account for the introduction of this plant in this far remote habitat.

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<sup>1</sup>Hansgirg, A. Ueber neue Susswasser und Meeresalgen. Sitzber. K. Bohm. Ges. 1890, p. 10.

<sup>2</sup>DeToni, G. B. Frammenti algologici VIII. Sopra la sinonimia e la distribuzione geographica del Gloetaenium Loitlesbergeruabum Hansg. Rev. Bot. Cent. 62: 110. 1895.

<sup>3</sup>Wille, N., in Engler und Prantl. Pflanzen familien I, 2, p. 159. 1897.

<sup>4</sup>West, G. S., West Indian Fresh Water Algae. Jour. Bot. 42: 281. 1904.

<sup>5</sup>Collins, F. S. The Green Algae of North America. Tufts College Studies II, p. 310. 1909.