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A NEW POLYPORE IN WASHINGTON

ELIZABETH EATON MORSE

(WITH 5 FIGURES)

A stipitate polypore was observed and studied by Mr. J. B. Flett in Bremerton, Washington, from 1931 to 1939. It was first noticed because of its stature (up to 17 cm. tall), its exceedingly brittle and hygrophonous tissues and the bluish-green¹ coloration of the pilei.

Bremerton, as is well known, is located on a peninsula in sheltered Puget Sound, is well wooded and is subject to the heavy precipitation and dense fogs which prevail in that region. This fungus grew close to Mr. Flett's cabin in a more or less open *Pseudotsuga* forest, hence he was able to observe it day by day at all stages of development. It always appeared during the rainy seasons, though there were early and late arrivals in the months of September and March respectively. It grew in a thin layer of black humus 3 to 4 inches deep, unattached to living or decaying forest trees. This layer rested upon a deep substratum of sand and gravel, no clay present.

Mr. Flett watched an irregular Fairy Ring developing under cover of *Gaultheria*, *Vaccinium*, *Berberis* and *Rhododendron*. It advanced slowly where the vegetation was tall and dense, about 2 feet per year, but more rapidly on the open side of the ring—until a diameter of 75 feet was attained.

This fungus prospers best in semi-shade and when supplied with abundant moisture; the pilei become very brittle and snap like the crisp vein of a lettuce leaf!

The following description has been prepared from abundant material, extended correspondence, photo prints and the detailed notes supplied by Mr. Flett.

¹ Aerugineus, Saccardo's *Chromotaxia*, no. 37, 1894.

Polyporus Flettii sp. nov.

Pileus circular or irregular by compression, crenate, undulate, 20×15 cm. broad in large specimens, at first convex, inrolled, later becoming plane and finally depressed at center; color when young greenish-blue, paler at margin, when dry becoming grayish or hoary, and finally dingy ochraceous; context white, 2 mm. thick at the margin increasing to 15 mm. at the center. Hymenium very shallow, separable from the context, pure white at first, becoming apricot to salmon when mature or dried, decurrent and ending in a reticulation on the stipe; at first covered with a spongy "superficial hyphal layer not involved in the process of tube formation," L. O. O.; tubes 1-4 to a mm., 1 mm. deep at margin to 7 mm. towards the stipe, mouths of tubes angular, not uniform; dissepiments dentate, becoming lacerate, finally fimbriate. Stipe smooth beyond the reticulation, white, solid, confluent with pileus, becoming dingy ochraceous when dry, up to 14 cm. long by 2-3.5 cm. wide, usually eccentric, often crooked from meeting obstructions or from caespitose manner of growth. Odor and taste farinaceous. Reported edible by Mr. Flett. Basidia clavate $12-16 \times 4-6 \mu$, 4-spored; spores ellipsoid to subglobose, smooth, hyaline, uniguttulate, $3.5-4 \times 2.5-3 \mu$. Cystidia and setae none.

Type locality. Bremerton, Washington, not reported elsewhere.

Habitat. In shallow black humus of mixed forest, even in gravel and moss.

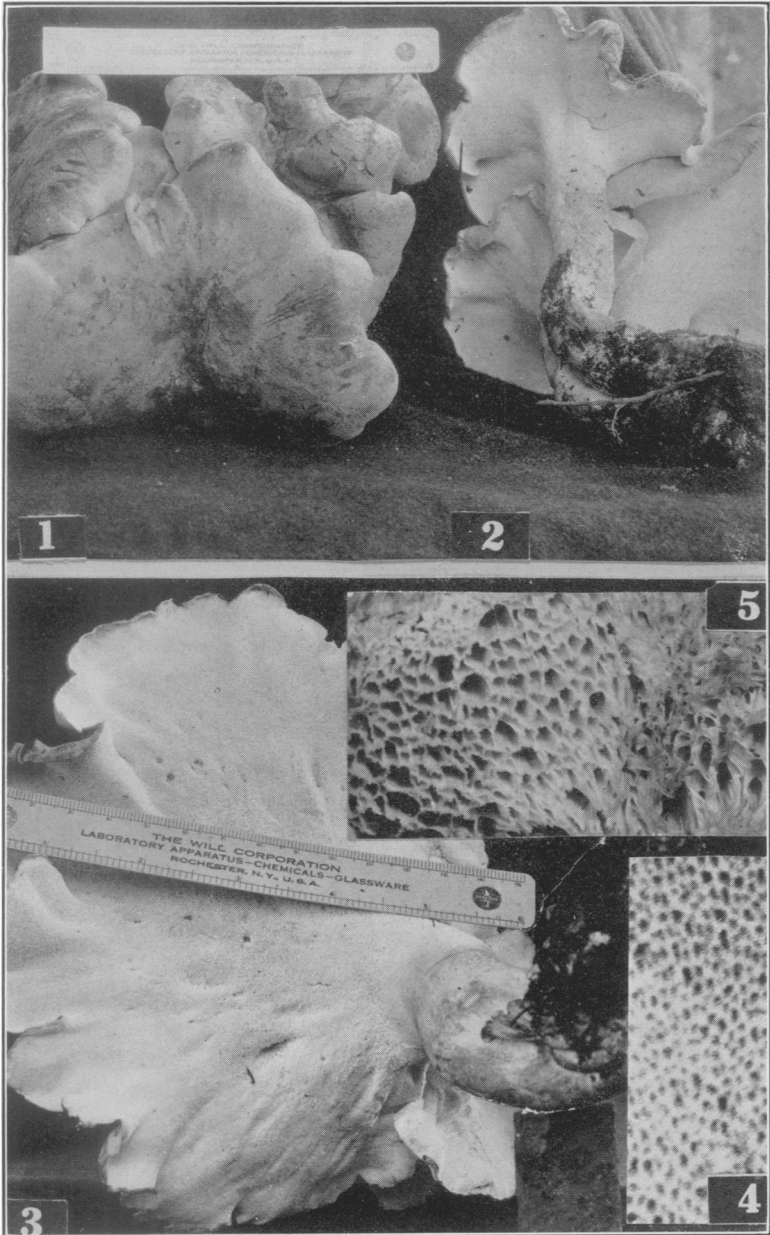
Habit. Gregarious, solitary, or caespitose.

Season. The rainy season, September to March.

Type collection deposited in Herbarium of the University of California as no. 589805.

It is the opinion of L. O. Overholts that this fungus should be described as a new species (letter, May 25, 1936). Carleton Rea, England, comments as follows: "I do not know any species in England that will answer to your specimen" (letter, June 12, 1938). W. H. Snell writes: "Your fungus is without doubt a polypore and not a bolete. Separability of tubes is of no import even in the Boleti" (Feb. 3, 1941).

Grateful acknowledgments are made to Mr. Flett, as previously stated, and to those who examined specimens inclusive of Doctors Bonar, Overholts and Snell and Mrs. V. M. Miller. The writer



FIGS. 1-5. *Polyporus Flettii*.

earnestly hopes that other discoveries may be made and that opinions concerning this Washington polypore may be received.

CALIFORNIA MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
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EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

FIGS. 1-5. *Polyporus Flettii* Morse: 1, Cluster of young sporophores, caps glabrous showing "bloom" easily marred, margins pale, crenate. 2, Under side of young sporophores, margins inrolled, hymenia covered with pure white spongy hyphal layer, mouths not yet opened out; stipes elongated, enlarged at bases, closely adjacent but not grown together. 3, Mature sporophore, margin expanded, thin, crenate, undulate; hymenial surface uneven, mouths opening out through hyphal layer; stipe elongated, ventricose. 4, Portion of pore surface enlarged, mouths open, shreds of hyphal layer intact. 5, Pores more enlarged, mouths angular, not uniform, dissepiments dentate, some lacerate, the most mature, fimbriate.