

XIX. GYROMITRA BRUNNEA, UNDERWOOD*

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Gyromitra brunnea is an ascomycete that is somewhat rare in its occurrence. So far as known, it has never been reported as occurring in Oklahoma. The fungus was first found by Dr. W. V. Brown in Putnam County, Indiana, May, 1892. It has also been found in Ohio. The specimen (Fig.1) was collected by the author in an open scrub-oak grove one mile southwest of Clayton, in what is known as the Mehan oil field, April 4, 1926, in a dry sandy clay soil.

The plant is three to five inches high having a stout, fleshy stipe, and bearing a broad, much contorted brown ascoma two to four inches broad. The fluted stem is $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. The asci are 8-spored, the spores being elliptical in shape. The numerous, septate paraphyses are branched as many as three times and are enlarged at the apex. For a more complete description, see McIlvanic's "One Thousand American Fungi" pages 547-8.

The plant is said to be esculent and tender, possessing a fine flavor. It appears to be local and never very abundant; sometimes eight or ten plants are found in one small area. The author found three or four plants, occurring singly and scattered some distance apart.

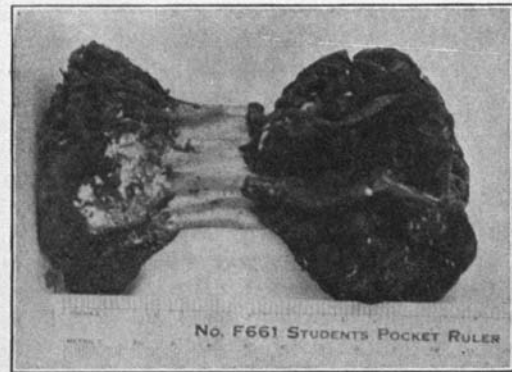


Fig. 1. *Gyromitra Brunnea*, Underwood. Note the large base, the stout, fleshy, grooved stipe, and the much contorted brown ascoma.

*My determination of this fungus has been verified by Miss E. K. Cash, and William W. Diehl, both in the Laboratory of Pathological Collections, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C.