

An Addition to the Cryptogamic Flora of the Royal Botanic Garden.

BY

MALCOLM WILSON, D.Sc., and H. F. TAGG, F.L.S.

Physarum gyrosum, Rost.

Specimens of this organism, which belongs to the Mycetozoa, were found in a greenhouse in the Royal Botanic Garden in May 1919. The sporangia were discovered by Mr. Laurence Stewart amongst moss, on the surface of the soil in a pot in which seeds from India had been planted, and it is probable that the species was introduced with the seed.

The sporangia are clustered, and give rise to net-like plasmodiocarps several millimetres in diameter, which are seated on a dull red hypothallus; the sporangium wall is grey, with clustered deposits of white lime-granules. The capillitium forms a scanty network of hyaline threads with large lime knots; the spores are pale brownish-violet, spinulose, and 7-10 μ in diameter.

This species has not been previously definitely recorded in Britain. Berkeley probably found it in a cucumber frame in Northamptonshire, naming it *Didymium daedalium*, Berk. et Br., but the type specimen has not been preserved. The form described by Massee from a palm-house at Kew, and named *Physarum cerebrinum*, was also probably the same species.

Physarum gyrosum has been recorded from the Botanic Gardens at Berlin, from Ceylon, Japan, and from North and South America.

We desire to record our thanks to Miss G. Lister, to whom we are indebted for confirming the naming of *Physarum gyrosum* and for information concerning this species.

Printed under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office
By NEILL & Co., LTD., Edinburgh.

[Notes, R.B.G., Edin., No. LX, January 1921.]