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A NEW WESTERN PHOLIOTA

ELIZABETH EATON MORSE

(WITH 7 FIGURES)

A peculiar agaric has been collected infrequently in the Sierra during the last fourteen years. Specimens were submitted to several mycologists for identification, but no generic name was proposed until a specimen was sent to Dr. John Dearness, London, Canada, who pronounced it a *Pholiota*. Following this lead, the writer sent specimens, notes and photos to him for critical study. His description, accompanied by apology for attempting to describe a dried agaric, is copied verbatim.

***Pholiota magnivelata* sp. nov.**

“Cap—whitish to cremeous, nearly plane, usually irregular, margin inrolled, viscid, 7.6 cm. in diameter.

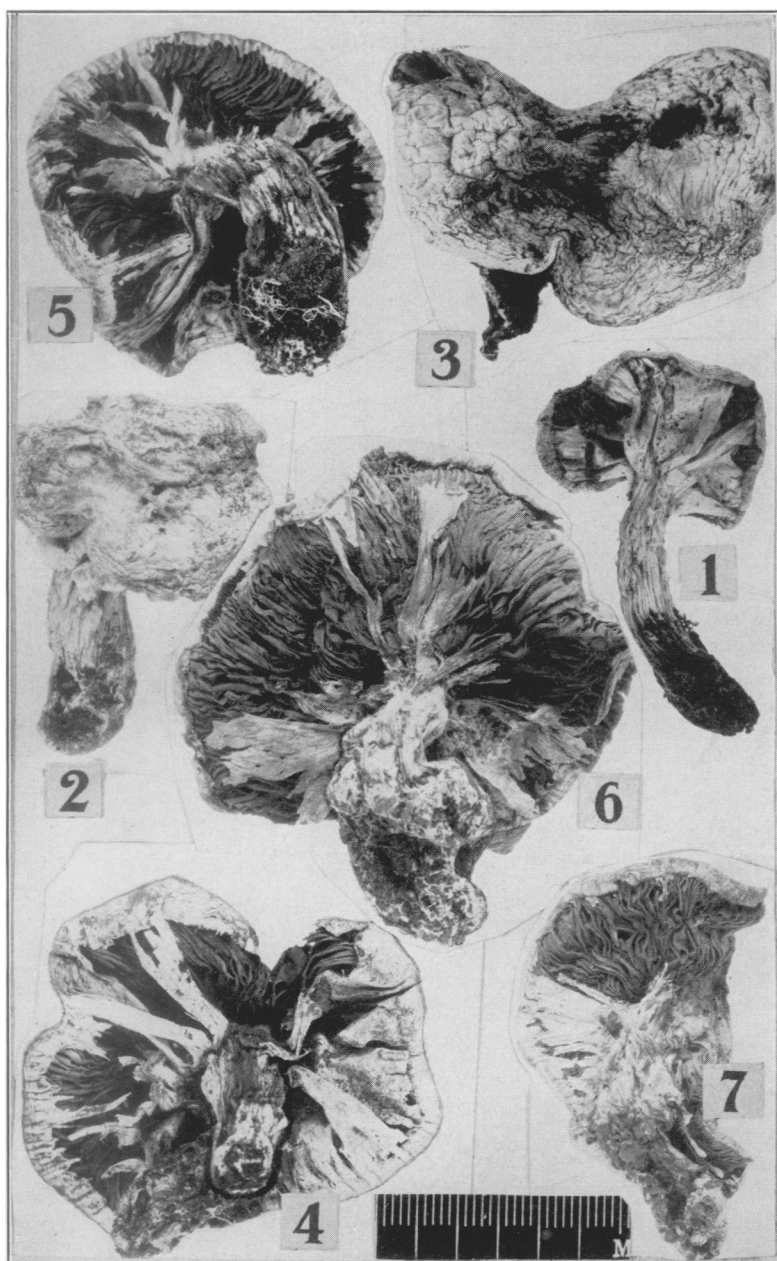
“Flesh—white, rather thin for size of cap, firm, not hard or brittle at first, but becoming hard as it dries.

“Gills—dark rust-color, ventricose, widest near the middle, close, 11 mm. where widest, slightly anastomosed or considerably branched.

“Partial veil—fibrous, a delicate, thin, satiny membrane, fully attached to both margin and stem; at maturity this tissue splits into segments 3–4 cm. long, lower sides partly covered with a white, cottony layer continuous with a similar layer on the stem. *Magnivelata* is a very appropriate term.

“Stem—usually eccentric, concolorous with cap, longitudinally, often deeply ridged, cottony at or near connection with the veil; in cross section a dark brown band one mm. wide under the cuticle, the irregular shrunken tissue inside the band, formerly spongy, shows no evidence of canal or other cavity; sometimes ventricose, sometimes bulbous with base narrowed to quite a sharp point, suggesting growth from decayed buried wood; length 4 cm., longest diameter 1.6 cm., soil-covered on lowest third.

“Spores—the color of the gills, dark-rusty, ocher under microscope, nearly elliptic, some of them flatter on one side, not truncate, some with a short apiculus, smooth under intermediate magnifica-

FIGS. 1-7. *Pholiota magnivelata*.

tion, minutely rough under high power, $7.5-10 \times 5-7 \mu$, average $8.13 \times 5.4 \mu$, wall of visible thickness.

“Cystidia—none observed.

“Taste and odor—not reported; not distinctive in the dried state.”

All the collections inhabited damp soil or humus in open coniferous forest in the Sierra or foothills, at 3500 to 6500 feet elevation, as follows:

General Grant National Park, in bank of dry creek bed in partial shade; July, 1927; E. E. Morse. The type collection in liquid is deposited in the University of California Herbarium, No. 638890.

Same locality, near Administration building; autumn, 1927; H. Bailey.

Same locality, June 21, 1931; Mrs. H. E. Roberts.

Sequoia National Park, Camp Kaweah; July 7, 1936; Mrs. B. B. Nielsen.

Jonesville, Butte Co., altitude 5500 feet; July 27, 1936; E. B. Copeland. “Dried *in situ*.”

Jones Creek, above Jonesville, among dead fir needles under snow during winter; August 7, 1938; H. F. Copeland.

Four miles above Camino, Eldorado Co., “among needles of *Pseudotsuga* and *Taxus*, in very shaded forest,” May 5, 1940; Frank Taylor, comm. H. F. Copeland.

Collections are deposited in the herbarium of the University of California.

The maximum width of cap was 12 cm. The veil which at first covers the expanded hymenium splits into segments as described and finally disappears entirely.

This article is offered in the hope that other localities may be discovered and that additional information or emendations of the description may be reported. Dr. Dearness writes: “For the third time I have gone over my beliefs about this plant. The veil is certainly remarkable for a *Pholiota*. If this species has ever been published the description has escaped getting into the literature accessible to me.” (Letter, August 28, 1940.)

I wish to acknowledge my obligation to Drs. Dearnness, Seaver, Bonar, E. B. Copeland, H. F. Copeland and Vera Mentzer Miller, and to each of the collectors.

CALIFORNIA MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY, FEBRUARY 1, 1941

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

FIGS. 1-7. Photographs by W. C. Matthews. *Pholiota magnivelata* Dearnness: (1) a young sporophore, cap irregular, not fully developed (met obstruction on one side?), margin inrolled, veil a thin, glabrescent membrane firmly attached to both margin and stipe; stipe fairly equal, deeply longitudinally ridged, showing fragments of woolly adhesions, earth stained in lower half; (2) pileus cremeous to ocher colored, glabrous, margin wavy, stipe fairly equal, patches of soil towards the base; (3) one deep sinus, cuticle much wrinkled, viscid, patches of soil and spores still clinging, stipe eccentric, much narrowed at base; (4) under side of pileus showing tendency to split radially, margin much inrolled, veil broken, some of the segments have disappeared; (5) veil less intact, only shreds left; lamellae very close, show some margins with rounded gaps; stipe gradually enlarged towards a soil-stained and rounded base; "the clean white mycelial fibers suggest wood debris or woody humus rather than soil" (J. D.); (6) the largest sporophore collected, older than 4, 5, or 7, lamellae crowded, additional short lamellae extend in from the margin; stipe much shrunken, ventricose at middle, also showing mycelial fibers at base; (7) one large area of veil intact; both 4 and 7 show areas at bases of stipes which suggest possible attachment to rotting wood.