

A NEW TRUFFLE RECORD FOR ILLINOIS

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ABSTRACT.—*Tuber longisporum* Gilkey is recorded for Illinois for the first recorded account of the fungus on the North American Continent since it was originally described from Ithaca, New York in 1925.

Truffles belonging to the species *Stephensia shanori* (Gilkey) Gilkey have been reported as occurring in Illinois (Uecker, 1967). The ascocarps of this truffle were collected at Urbana, Illinois by L. Shanor

in 1953. To my knowledge this constitutes the only published account of truffles in Illinois until the present report.

Ascocarps belonging to the fungus which is the subject of this note were collected at Lake Argyle State Park, McDonough County in 1971. The identification of the fungus, *Tuber longisporum* Gilkey, was determined by J. M. Trappe. The description of *T. longisporum* by Gilkey (1925) was based on specimens collected at Ithaca, New York by H. H. Whetzel on July 20, 1903.

One of the fruiting bodies (EFM 1406) was discovered by H. H. Edwards while he was in the process of digging for earthworms on July 18, 1971. The remaining ascocarps (EFM 1407) were uncovered by H. H. Edwards, G. W. Eslinger and the writer on July 20, 1971 in approximately the same area. The specimens were taken from a depth of no more than two or three inches and some were partially exposed from the soil but covered by heavy leaf litter. The area was dominated by oak trees.

The ascocarps were light brown when fresh but have darkened somewhat after preservation in a 30:3 (ethanol-formalin) solution. The largest ascocarp is about 2 cm in diameter and they range in size down to .8 cm in diameter. For the most part, they are subspherical to very irregular in shape.

The asci generally contain 4 ascospores, however many asci contain from 1-3 ascospores and occasionally 5 are found in an ascus. The alveolate nature of the mature ascospores is most evident. The spores are mostly ellipsoidal and range in size from $24 \times 44 \mu$ to $28 \times 50 \mu$ (fig. 1). They are yellow becoming light brown with age.

LITERATURE CITED

- GILKEY, H. M. 1925. Five new hypogaeous fungi. *Mycologia* 17: 250-254.
- UECKER, F. A. 1967 *Stephensia shanori*. I. Cytology of the ascus and other observations. *Mycologia* 59: 819-832.

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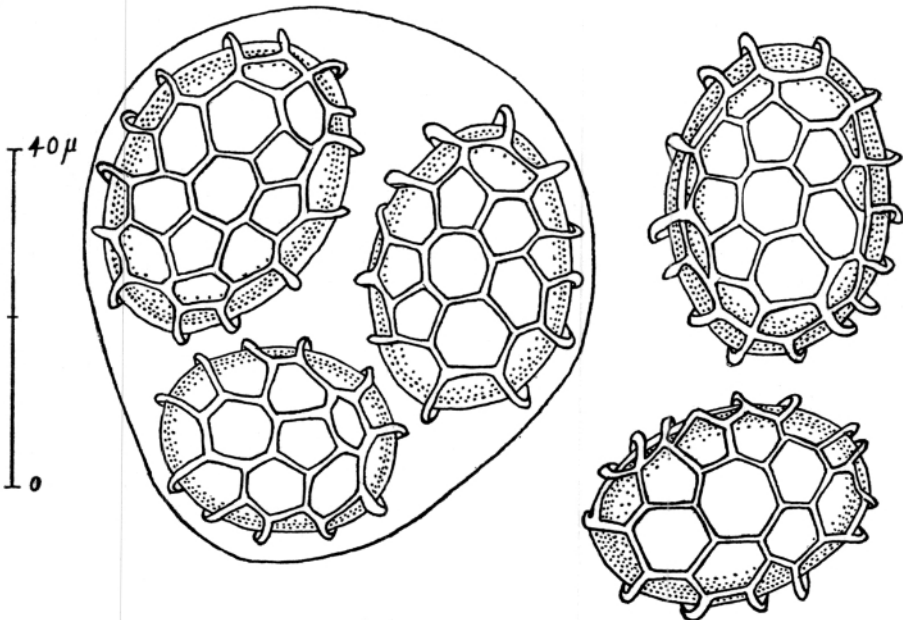


FIGURE 1.—*Tuber longisporum* Gilkey. Ascus and ascospores.