

A NEW MUSHROOM

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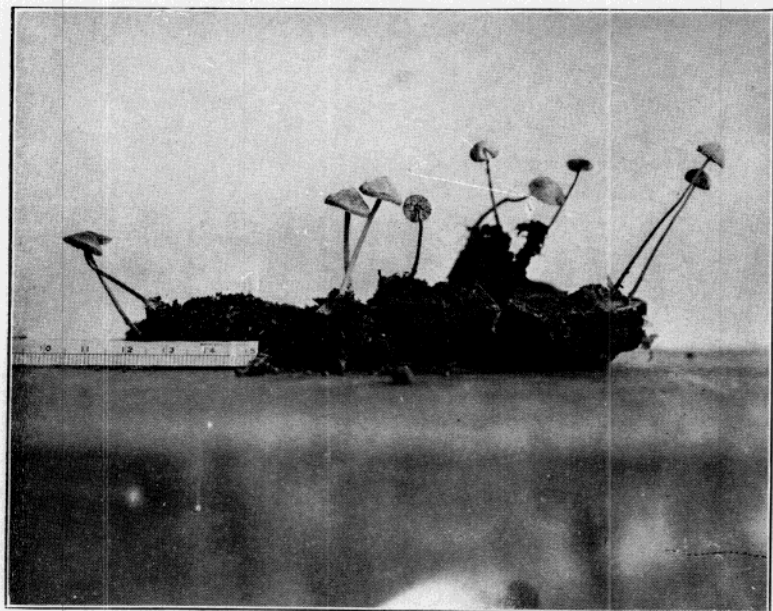
During the past few years I have been collecting in the University Woods near Urbana, Illinois, and occasionally at other places, a pretty little mushroom which very evidently belongs to the genus *Marasmius* but which so far as I have been able to learn is undescribed. (Fig. 1.) The plant is especially interesting because it always is attached to buried nuts. It is usually attached to walnuts or butternuts of the preceding year but occasionally it has been found attached to hickory nuts.

The substratum that the mushroom makes use of seems to be the nut shell rather than the meat. The meat of the nuts to which the mushrooms are attached looks normal and tastes normal. Sections of the meat washed in alcohol show under the microscope normal parenchyma cells full of crystalloid and globoid protein grains but with no sign of mycelium. On the other hand sections of a partly decayed half shell of a butternut to which a mushroom was attached showed mycelium present in the shell.

Because of the substratum on which this mushroom grows I am calling it *Marasmius nucicola*. A description follows:—

Marasmius nucicola n. sp.—Pileus 5-15 mm. broad, at first campanulate, becoming nearly plane or umbonate. Striate half way to the center, glabrous, reddish yellow to lemon yellow, fading to nearly white. Flesh thin, membranous. Gills adnate, moderately broad, not crowded, white or pale yellowish. Stem 3-4 cm. long, slender, smooth, reddish yellow to pale lemon yellowish, often darker above. Long, hairy, rooting base often 5-7 cm. long, extending and attached to a buried nut. Spores oval with a very short apiculus, 4-5 μ . x 8-9 μ ., smooth, white. Odor none. Taste not pronounced. Edibility not tested. Cystidia numerous on edge of gills.

Under walnut and butternut trees in woods. Always attached to buried nuts of *Juglans* or occasionally of *Carya*. Often 3 or 4 sporophores are attached to the same nut. August to October.



LEGEND.

Fig. 1. *Marasmius nucicola* n. sp.