



New Jersey  
Mycological Assn.

NJMA News

Volume IX

President: Jim Richards

February 1979

No. 2

Editor: Melanie Spock

## COOKING A LA GOURMET — FEB. 25

At our regular meeting, professional chef Paul Leutard will demonstrate gourmet preparation of various wild mushrooms. He is the head chef for the executive dining room of Avon Corporation. This meeting is open to members only. The public is not invited. We will also be sampling the culinary treats. Anyone who has any dried or frozen mushrooms that they would like to contribute, please contact Greta Turchick at [redacted]. Bring your appetites. 1:30 p.m. SCEEC.

## MEETING NOTES

Jim Richards introduced committee chairmen present. Committees are being organized and should be functioning by the next meeting.

The club presented outgoing president Bob Peabody with an inscribed silver bowl to show our appreciation for all the time and work he invested in the club during his two years as president. Bob accepted the gift commenting that with what other hobby could he satisfy his several interests -- athletics, outdoors, his stomach, and people, especially the talented, diverse and friendly people in our club. Mike Stefkovich inscribed the bowl.

Dr. Clark Rogerson presented a well organized lecture on Lepiotas. He passed out a key as an aid in identifying and pinpointing Lepiota look-alikes. The reasons for taxonomy changes with the accompanying key should be helpful for macroscopic identification.

## HOMOLA ON BOLETES

Despite the bitter cold on Dec. 28th, about 60 people braved the weather and attended Dr. Richard Homola's presentation on Boletes. Dr. Homola gave an interesting and informative talk, accompanied by slides of mushrooms and spores, common names and characteristics which were a big help to those not too familiar with boletes. The spore slides taken through a scanning electron microscope were so different from the average spore slide. Later we sampled some species discussed, supplied by Greta Turchick. Dr. Homola handed out free pamphlets he had authored and his "Ectomycorrhizae of Maine" was available.

## TAXONOMY DATES

The next two taxonomy meeting dates are Tues., Feb. 13, at SCEEC and Wed., March 7th at Rutgers. Remember, in case of inclement weather, call Dorothy 647-5740, to see if the meeting is cancelled. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. Last month's newsletter contains directions to Rutgers.

## REMINDER

Members who have not paid their 1979 dues will no longer be receiving a newsletter to remind them. Mail your check payable to NJMA to Mrs. Margarete Turchick, Box [redacted]. Individual membership is \$7.50, family \$10.00.



## COMMITTEE HEADS SELECTED

A five hour executive committee meeting was held on January 28th. Taking into account the club's tremendous expansion over the past two years, and its continuous growth, many activities are being planned for the coming year. Included were tentative plans for our annual NJMA foray at PEEC, the Northeastern Foray in Connecticut and possible overnight forays, as well as the regular scheduled forays. We discussed our pending non-profit status, mycophagy workshops, and a possible mushroom fair. The educational committee has plans for classes this spring and group projects to study particular genera or subjects. Field identification will be getting more attention this year. More details will be explained at the meetings and in subsequent newsletters.

The hospitality committee does not have a chairman. Anyone interested in coordinating refreshments for winter meetings, contact Jim Richards.

The taxonomy committee needs an additional cabinet for herbarium specimens. Contact Dorothy Smullen if you would like to donate one.

Anyone interested in being on a committee or who has any ideas or suggestions, please contact the committee chairmen.

Education	Gary Lincoff
Field Identification	Neal MacDonald John Durkota
Foray	Paul Meyer Bill Rokicki
Library	Al Northup
Membership	Vic Gambino
Mycoesthetics	Gertrude Espenscheid
Mycophagy	Bob Peabody Greta Turchick
Newsletter	Melanie Spock
Photography	Al Leyenberger
Program	Jim Richards
Publicity	Brenda Bianco
Taxonomy	Dorothy Smullen
Toxicology	Dr. Stan Siegler

### MISCELLANEA

The Connecticut Valley Mycological Assoc. printed a three page article entitled "At Home with Oyster Mushrooms" by Tak Wong. If anyone is interested in growing their own, contact Dorothy Smullen for a copy.

Richard Carey wrote to say he had had a reaction to Clitocybe clavipes with beer in October. His reaction was similar to Brenda Bianco's, and Gary Lincoff mentioned that he has heard of reactions to clavipes in connection with alcohol.

## AWARD TO SAM

This fall Dr. Sam Ristich attended the NAMA foray in California. NAMA presented him with the highest award given to professionals "The Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology." Congratulations to Sam from all of us.

The following is an excerpt from a letter received from Sam.

The paucity of rain left the predicted plethora of mycological entities underground thus leaving numerous mycophagists and seekers of western fungal surprises deeply disappointed and wondering whether the buckets of buckets were justified.

Despite the deep disappointments, we did see some exciting fungal species and heard some excellent lectures. For me the fungal gems included Brauniellula, a strange secotioid puffball-like member of the family Gomphidiaceae; Rhizopogon ellenal, a giant species that looks like a yellow Calvatia; Amanita aspera that is a flavorubens look-alike; Strobilurus, the Baeospora look-alike growing only on evergreen cones; Inocybe pudica - that stains bright orange; Amanita pachycolea - an enormous beautiful 15 inch umbrunolutea look-alike; Collybia umbonata - a mycorrhizal long-long rooted C. radicata look-alike.

The most photogenic species included a bright orange 6" Aleuria aurantia, a huge cluster of Hydnellum aurantiacum, a two bushel size Polyporus schweinitzii, and the most intensely varnished Fomes pinicola I have ever seen!

The lectures on Lepiotas and Agaricus left us wondering how we have missed so many species in the genera. For me the most spectacular awe inspiring portion of the western trip was seeing the towering titans - the redwoods. I stood in the armstrong grove and looked and looked at the cellulose seers. After the Sequoia meditation, I felt humbled but emotionally recharged.

## SLIDE LIBRARY

BY AL LEYENBERGER

Donations to the slide library have been made recently by Gertrude Espenscheid, Sam Ristich, Margaret Morris and others. Jim Richards and Bob Peabody donated a set of 25 duplicates which they had made of Gary Lincoff's slides. For all of these we are grateful and appreciative. Lets keep the momentum and make this a truly great collection. Although now numbering almost 400 slides, some genera are not well represented. We have no species at all of Clitocybe, Entoloma, or Inocybe, and a few species of Lactarius, Russula, Tricholoma, and Cortinarius. Please keep this in mind when sorting out your own slides to see if you have any extras for the Club Library.

The color slide library of the NJMA belongs to the Association. This is a valuable, and to a large extent, irreplaceable collection of slides. The following regulations are therefore set up, not to limit its use, but rather to protect the collection for the benefit of all.

1. Slides may be borrowed, for a period of not more than four weeks, by arrangement with the Librarian (presently Al Leyenberger, 1.)
2. Desired slides will be brought to the next meeting or foray or will be mailed directly to the member.
3. Return can be made at the following meeting or foray, or can be mailed to the Librarian.
4. Sending slides by mail is undesirable; personal delivery and return is highly preferable except in unusual circumstances. If mailed, the slides must be insured for \$100. Postal costs are paid for by the borrower.
5. The slides must be handled carefully. Do not project them for an extended length of time. Make sure your projector has adequate cooling. In other words, treat them as you do your own.
6. Duplication of the slides is permissible. As a courtesy to the donor, place his name on the duplicated slide.
7. Many of the slides were donated to the Association as to a non-profit organization; therefore, no commercial use of the slides or duplicates may be made.

## NEW YORK LECTURE

BY GARY LINCOFF

On January 29th, Dr. Orson K. Miller, Jr., author of the popular field guide, *MUSHROOMS OF NORTH AMERICA*, gave a lecture on mushrooms that grow on wood before the New York Mycological Society at the New York Academy of Sciences. Several members of NJMA attended, and those who had read Paul Vergeer's article on polypore identification that was reprinted in the NJMA Newsletter (March 1978) were a giant step ahead of the rest of the audience. Dr. Miller discussed polypores and closely related gilled mushrooms in the genera Pleurotus, Panus, Lentinus, and Phyllotopsis. What came as a surprise to many was that he placed these gilled mushrooms in the family Polyporaceae; in his field guide he places these in the Tricholomataceae, a family of white or pale spored gilled mushrooms that used to include everything in this category but amanitas, lepiotas, hygrophori, russulas and lactarii. Although mushroom identification at the species level has remained more or less stable since the turn of the century - that is, you can still use a book like McIlvaine & Macadam's *ONE THOUSAND AMERICAN FUNGI* (1900, reprinted 1973)... as long as you don't follow the advise about mushroom edibility! - taxonomy at the supra-specific level (i.e., genus, family, even order) has been undergoing a very creative, exciting, and confusing re-evaluation. Once upon a time, every woody pore or shelf fungus was a Polyporus-this or Polyporus-that. Now there are dozens of generic names for these really very different polypores. Dr. Miller discussed some of our most common polypores using these new names, such as Bondarzewia berkeleyi for Polyporus berkeleyi and Laetiporus sulphureus for Polyporus sulphureus. Fortunately, the specific epithet for most of these species remains the same so that the new generic names are not all that troublesome. The reasons for the name changes are mostly microscopic and micro-chemical and are not characteristics that would usually be recognizable in the field. The reasons why gilled mushrooms like oysters are placed in the same family as polypores have to do in part because of their habit and habitat, but mostly because of their microscopic similarity. Readers of the NJMA Newsletter can look forward to a key to the identification of these pleurotoid mushrooms in a future issue.

The next lecture program the NYMS is sponsoring is an illustrated lecture on "The Cultivation of Mushrooms, Wild and Tame" on February 27th, by Dr. Leon K. Kneebone, Professor of Botany, Pennsylvania State University. The lecture will be at #2 East 63rd Street, N. Y., N. Y., 7:30 p.m., \$3.00 admission.

## FUNGI FANTASIES

In the Humperdink opera "Hansel and Gretel" is a riddling rhyme. It is translated in Gnomes by Wil Huygen and Rein Poortvliet as:

"A little man stands in the woods, still and alone;  
his smock is of bright purple and with purple thread is sewn.

Pray tell: who is this little man,...who stands on just one leg..."

According to the book, "many have guessed gnomes, but it has nothing to do with gnomes. It concerns most likely the fly agaric. The confusion stems from the folk belief that gnomes in times of danger can transform themselves into toadstools." Rather than an amanita, Vic Gambino believes the mushroom mentioned is a cortinarius. The purple thread could be the cortina. The idea that various "wee people" change themselves into mushrooms is a common folk belief in many countries.

## MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

An annual membership roster will be published within the next couple of weeks. Current members who have forgotten to pay their dues will be omitted, unless they rejoin shortly.

# LATIN ENDINGS OF MUSHROOM SPECIES BY DAVE PATTERSON

Which is correct *Entoloma abortivus* or *Entoloma abortivum*? To answer this question one must survey the field of Latin endings. It is not difficult to understand this topic even if one has never opened a Latin grammar.

A mushroom genus is either masculine, feminine or neuter; some examples:

<u>masculine</u>	<u>feminine</u>	<u>neuter</u>
Agaricus	Amanita	Entoloma
Cantharellus	Collybia	Hebeloma
Coprinus	Inocybe	Lycoperdon
Cortinarius	Mycena	Tricholoma
Hygrophorus	Pholiota	
Lactarius	Russula	
Marasmius	Stropharia	

It is not necessary to memorize the gender of a genus since it may be quickly determined by inspection of the species; more of this later.

The ending on the species depends upon whether it is: (A) used as an adjective; this accounts for the majority of the cases (B) used to honor a person (C) used to designate a habitat or geographical location (D) in the category of a universal ending (E) Miscellaneous.

## (A) Species used as an adjective

In Latin an adjective must agree in gender with the noun it modifies. For mushrooms the genus is the noun and the species is the adjective; therefore, the species in the genus *Agaricus* must have masculine endings, species of the genus *Amanita* must have feminine endings and *Entoloma* species must have neuter endings. What are these endings? There are 2 classes of adjectives which are called Class A and Class B and their endings are easily memorized using the following mnemonic:

Gus & Anna like rum (Class A)  
but  
Brother Chris & sis like coke (Class B)

Gus is a masculine name and ends in us; the genus *Lactarius* is masculine and hence we have species with endings like: camphoratus, deceptivus, helvus, rufus; and volemus.

Anna is feminine and ends in a; the genus *Amanita* is female and species have endings like: caesaria, citrina, flavoconia, muscaria, vaginata, and virosa.

Rum is neuter and ends in um; the genus *Tricholoma* is neuter and therefore we expect endings like: saponaceum, sejunctum, terreum, and virgatum.

We have gone through the Class A adjectives and before proceeding to the Class B ones, it should be pointed out that we already know enough to say that the species belong to the genus *Clitopilus* which is masculine; hence *Clitopilus abortivus* (Gus); but the species is now generally placed with *Entoloma* which is neuter and gives us *Entoloma abortivum* (rum).

In Kauffman the genus *Agaricus* (masculine) is called by the obsolete name of *Psalliota* (female). This is why we have *Agaricus abruptibulbus* but *Psalliota abruptibulba*, *Agaricus augustus* but *Psalliota augusta*, *Agaricus diminutivus* but *Psalliota diminutiva*.

If the adjective (species) inherently belongs to the Class B group we analyze as follows: Brother Chris is masculine and may end in er (seldom) or is; since the genus *Lactarius* is masculine we have species like: affinis, corrugis, subdulcis, and trivialis; the masculine genus *Tylopilus* has the species alboater. Sis who is feminine also has an is ending. The feminine genus *Russula* has species like: fragilis, puellaris, and uncialis. Coke is neuter and ends in e; the neuter genus *Tricholoma* has species like: acre, grave, ustale. *Hebeloma* is also neuter and gives species like: crustiliniforme, fastibile, hiemale and simile.

You now know over 75% of the species endings. To recapitulate: if the species is used as an adjective and the genus is masculine, the species may end in us, er, is (Gus, Brother Chris); if the genus is feminine it may end in a, is (Anna, sis); if neuter endings are um, e (since rum and coke go together). Now open up Miller or

Kauffman to the index and you may quickly determine the gender of any genus by looking for the species endings of us, a or e.

(B) Species used in honor of a person

If the person's name ends in a vowel, an i is added (vowels are a, e, i, o, u, y); examples: *Coltrichia greenei*, *Ramariopsis kunzei*, *Suillus grevillei*. An exception, if the name ends in an a add an e instead of an i; examples: *Hygrophorus laurae*, *Russula mariae*. If the person's name ends in a consonant add ii: *Amanita wellsii*, *Boletus frostii*, *Leccinum snellii*, *Russula peckii*. An exception, if the name ends in er add only one i: *Amanita cokeri*, *Coprinus boudieri*, *Trichoglossum walteri*. If the species was named as a compliment to someone who was not the discoverer, it may end in anus, ana, anum (m, f, n). Hence: *Amanita atkinsoniana*, *Pholiota johnsoniana*.

Some deviations to these rules do occur such as *Agaricus rodmani* instead of *rodmanii*. There are some excuses for this but we won't go into them. Latin errors have occurred through the years and time has a way of rendering them legitimate. Consider the legal term ex post facto which has been in continuous use since 1649 (at least) according to the Oxford English Dictionary; yet this expression is grammatically incorrect. It should be ex post factum, since the preposition post governs the accusative case and not the ablative.

(C) Species used to designate a habitat or geographical location

The latest code recommends that geographical names end either in ensis (m, f) or ense (n); anus, ana, anum (m, f, n). Some examples: *Clitocybe highlandensis*, *Clitopilus novaboracensis*, *Cordyceps canadensis*, *Suillus americanus*, *Wynnea americana*, *Dasycesyphus virginicus*. In the past other terminations were used such as acus, aca, acum, inus, ina, inum, cola; for example: *Hypomyces armenicacus*; *Hirschioporus abietinus*, *Russula silvicola*.

(D) Species used as a universal ending

A universal ending does not change regardless of the gender; in other words, the ending is the same for masculine, feminine or neuter; examples: color as in *Boletus bicolor*, ceps as in *Clitocybe multiceps*, pes as in *Flammulina velutipes*, oides as in *Amanita phalloides*. Note: if you encounter an ending not previously discussed it is probably in this category.

(E) Miscellaneous

If a genus is used as a species name in another genus, the ending does not change; examples: *Lepiota cortinari*, *Hygrophorus russula* (both *Cortinari* and *Russula* are genera and their endings do not change if used as a species.)

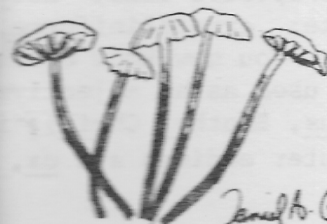
You now know all the important concepts and over 98% of the endings which are likely to be encountered. If you have made it this far, go out and mix yourself a rum and coke -- you deserve it. Raise a toast to Gus and Anna. WAIT five minutes before answering this question: Are rum and coke really neuter?

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

8914

ound Ridge, N. Y.

F  
I  
I  
I  
I  
F



*Keith Gordon*

# Mycophagist's Corner

Feb. '79

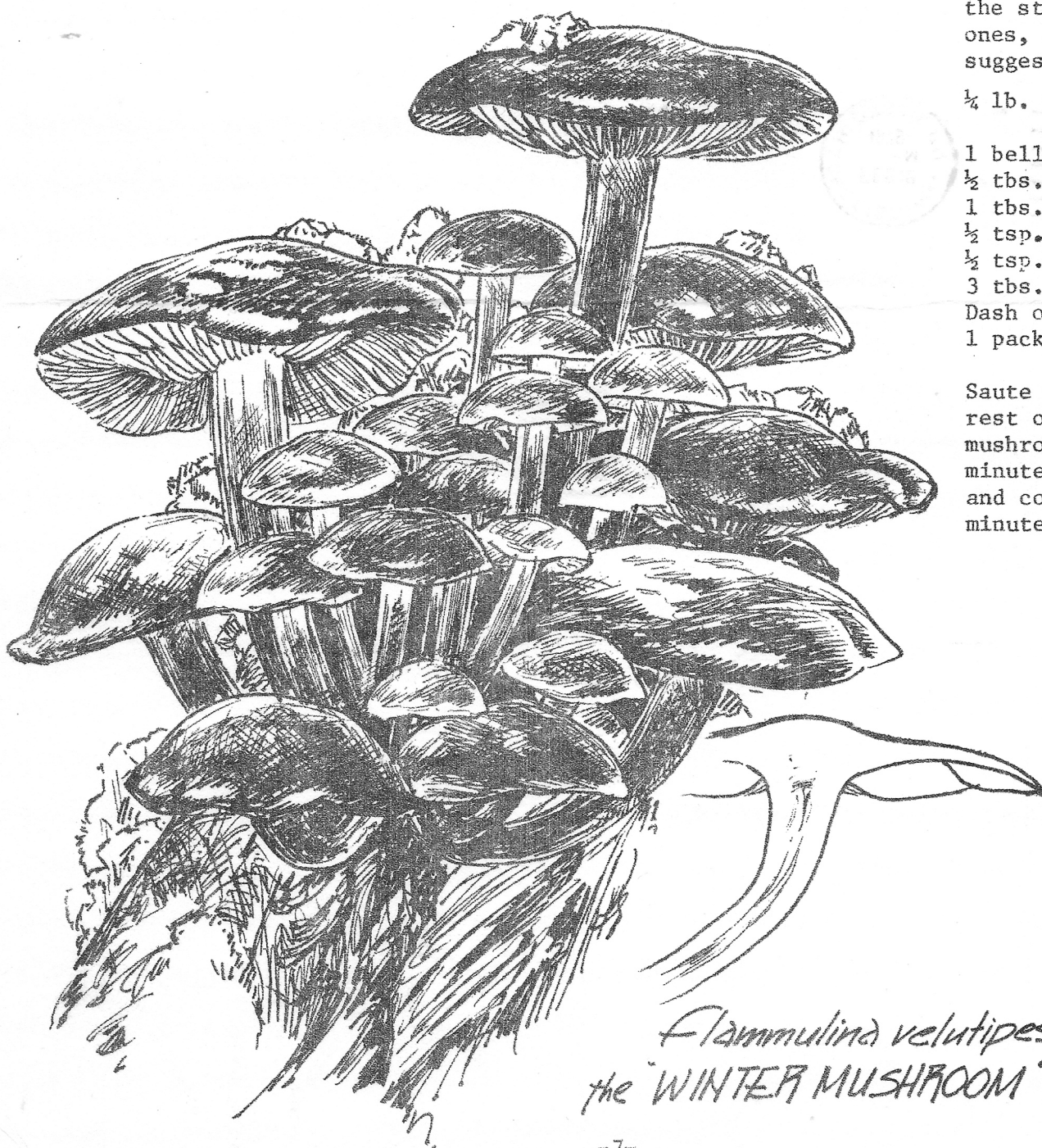
The winter mushroom, Flammulina velutipes, is an appropriate mushroom for this month. One of the few mushrooms found fruiting during the colder months of the year, there is little chance of confusing it with other fungi. The smooth, sticky, thin fleshed caps vary in color from yellowish to rust yellow or orange-red, less frequently pale yellow, and are approximately 2-10 cm. wide. The gills are pale yellow; the spore print white. The thin, tough stipe is 3-8 cm. long, hollow when old. Colored yellow towards the top, it is covered with olive-brown to blackish-brown or nearly black velvety down. You will find F. velutipes late autumn to March, growing in clusters on live and dead tree stumps and branches; it seems to prefer willow and elm. In winter the mushroom can freeze completely and then resume growth during warmer spells.

If you don't feel like freezing while foraging for F. velutipes, you may be able to pick it up at a supermarket or in oriental shops under the name of Enotake, Enok or Enoki-dake. It is cultivated in California, however, the mushrooms do not look like the wild ones. Dr. Orson Miller explained that the lack of light in cultivation causes the commercial ones to grow tall and thin, much like a green plant which grows spindly if not given enough light. For wild velutipes, Gary Lincoff suggests frying the caps in

butter and disregarding the stems. For cultivated ones, Jim Richards suggests Pepper Pork.

½ lb. pork cut in 2" strips  
1 bell pepper in 2" strips  
½ tbs. sesame oil  
1 tbs. soy sauce  
½ tsp. sherry or rice wine  
½ tsp. cornstarch  
3 tbs. chicken broth  
Dash of sugar & pepper  
1 pack enok mushrooms

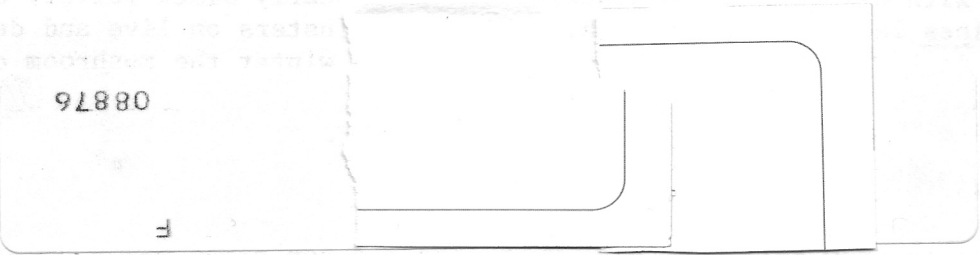
Saute pork in oil, add rest of ingredients except mushrooms and cook 3 minutes. Add mushrooms and cook additional minute. Serves 2.



*Flammulina velutipes*  
the "WINTER MUSHROOM"

Mycochaps' Corner

The winter season of 1979 has been relatively mild and unseasonable for this winter. One of the few weather events during the colder season of the year, there is little chance of a hard freeze. The weather is mild and unseasonable. The winter season of 1979 has been relatively mild and unseasonable for this winter. One of the few weather events during the colder season of the year, there is little chance of a hard freeze. The weather is mild and unseasonable.



N.J. MYCOLOGICAL ASSOC.  
C/O ROBERT PEABODY

THE WHITE MUSHROOM  
FAMILIAR TO VEGETABLES