LATIN ENDINGS OF MUSHROOM SPECIES

Dove Patterson, New Jersey Mycological Association

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:

- masculine: Agaricus, Cantharellus, Cortinarius, Hygrophorus, Lactarius, Marasmius
- feminine: Amanita, Coprinus, Gymnocladium, Hygrophoropsis, Lactarius, Lactarius
- neuter: Entoloma, Coprinus, Gymnopus, Hygrophorus, Lactarius, Lactarius

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) Species 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 two classes of adjectives which are called Class A and Class B and their endings are easily memorized using the following mnemonic:

- 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 feminine 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).

(continued on page 4)
Membership Meeting

Monday, January 14, 1980, 8:00 pm in our new location
THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND INDUSTRY
located at 2161 E. Hamlin (in the Montlake District).

Program: We are fortunate to be able to see once more the beautiful Japanese film: SHIITAKE (the commercially grown mushroom of Japan). The response of the membership was very enthusiastic when we showed this film several years ago.

BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

No incidence was reported in the parking lot during the December membership meeting. Dennis Krabbenhoft (who was much later relieved by Stan and LomNee March) patrolled the parking lot. Carl Hermanson had contacted the Seattle Police Department about patrolling the parking lot, but the police promised only to swing by once or so, since their busy schedule does not allow them to do more.

Therefore, it was suggested that at the beginning of each meeting, there be a sign-up sheet available, and members sign up for 15 minute stints of patrolling the parking lot during a membership meeting. Let's all pitch in and get this job done!

Margaret Dilly reported that the plans and preparations for the Survivors Banquet are well under way. (A report on the banquet appears elsewhere in Spore Prints)

A committee of three Trustees and Ben Woo went to the Seattle Center and inspected the Flag Pavilion (where the King Tut Exhibit was held) as a possible site for our Annual Exhibit in 1980. The consensus was that it is a very desirable and satisfactory location and will be available for October 4 & 5, 1980. The only drawback: according to Seattle Center rules PSMS (or its members individually) cannot bring any food or drink to the Exhibit. Only Seattle Center approved caterers are allowed to provide food or drink. The Board felt this drawback could be overcome.

The Treasurer reported that PSMS still has not received a check from the Science Center for our share of the 1979 Exhibit receipts, and he will look into the matter.

Rick White submitted to the Board his summary report (as Show Chairman) of the 1979 Exhibit, and is still collecting the individual committee reports from the respective chairmen.

PSMS has officially changed its mailing address to the Museum of History and Industry, 2161 E. Hamlin, Seattle, WA 98112, and is making permanent financial arrangements with the Museum.

Stan March recommended that the Board set up a "Greeters Committee" to welcome new members at our monthly meetings, answer their questions, and introduce them to the other members.

The Board nominated the following members to the election committee: Monte Hendrickson, Fay Melsen, Ed Cantelon and Patricia Winter. The committee is charged in finding candidates for the coming elections.

ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS

After accepting the nomination by the Board, the following members of the election committee - Monte Hendrickson, Fay Melsen, and Ed Cantelon met, elected Monte as their...
chairman, and formulated the rules under which the committee will function.

The election committee is actively seeking qualified candidates for the following positions: president, treasurer, five trustees, and at least three alternates. Any member interested and willing to be a candidate for the above named positions should contact one of the committee members. If you want to nominate someone other than yourself, be sure you have the consent of that member.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the January and February membership meetings, after which the nominations will close.

For your information, the functions of the officers and trustees are purely administrative. They make the decisions about the business matters of the Society. If you are interested, you may obtain a copy of the Society's By-Laws in which the specific duties of each office are outlined.

PHOTOGRAPHY NIGHT AND HOLIDAY PARTY

Ed and Ella Contelono

Our December meeting which has become a tradition, seemed much more “party-ish” this year in our new “home” at the Museum of History and Industry. The round tables, adorned with “real” white tablecloths, pointsettios, plus holly, set up by Dina Chybinski and Irene O’Connor made the cozy atmosphere for socializing.

To all who helped, and to all those wonderful bakers who donated beautiful, mouthwatering proofs of their abilities—and especially to Florence Mals and Bernice Velategui, who loaned the pointsettios for the evening and who also made the coffee and did "KP"-- our heartfelt thanks!

Slides were furnished by Joy & Roger Spurr and by Howard Gillen, as they could not be with us. Joe Chybinski, Howard Melsen, Bob Hanna, and Carl Hermanson showed slides and furnished the narration to go with them. Thanks to all of you, thanks too, to Dennis Krabbenhoft, who spent most of the evening on patrol of the parking lot (and who later was relieved by Stan and LomNee March).

NEW BOOKS

Mushrooms Demystified by David Arora (Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, $11.95) is a comprehensive field guide to over 700 species found on the Pacific Coast and throughout temperate North America. Sixty-five pages of introductory comments are followed by 570 pages of keys and descriptions of 700 species of fungi accompanied by black and white photos throughout. This is a paperback edition.

Coming in February 1980 from Mad River Press, Inc., Route 2, Box 151-B, Eureka, CA 95501

How To Use Mushrooms for Color by Miriam C. Rice with Illustrations by Dorothy Beebee. Ca. 125-150 pages, 5 color plates, $6.55 Prepublication price, postage included.

How To Identify Mushrooms To Genus V: Using Cultural and Developmental Features by Roy Watling. Ca. 80 pages, $4.70 Prepublication price, postage included. A guidebook and sourcebook to the different manners in which mushrooms develop from the button stage to the mature sporocarp. Features used to differentiate the developmental types are defined in detail and are illustrated.

A Literature Guide To The Identification Of Mushrooms by Roy Watling. Ca. 80 pages, $4.70 prepublication price, postage included. A much needed up-to-date and inclusive reference source book to the identification of the families, genera and species of the mushrooms, boletes, Auriscalpaeae, Cantharellloid and Clavarioid genera, Lentinellaceae, Schizophylloaceae and Thelephoraceae. Includes lists of societies and their addresses, where publications can be obtained, a list of journals and their abbreviations.

BITS AND PIECES

The following story appeared in Emmett Watson’s column in the Pl.

Author Murray Morgan is one of those inveterate mushroom hunters, and the other day he took acquisitive note of some luscious-looking shaggy manes—which cropped up on a neighboring lawn. Since the house had new owners, Morgan knocked on the door to ask permission to pick the mushrooms. A lovely woman, with long, dark hair, wearing a bathrobe, opened the door, and Murray asked, "May I pick your shaggy manes?" The lovely lady stared, open mouthed and extended, until Murray came on with a hasty clarification, "Oh, go ahead," she replied and slammed the door. And there’s Murray, a bit abashed: "Mycological accuracy can get you in trouble sometimes."

WILD MUSHROOMS AT THE SURVIVORS BANQUET

After many years, we are able to incorporate wild mushrooms into dishes served at the March banquet. This should be quite a treat. Be sure to contact George or Margaret if you can donate some.

NAMA NEWS

Gary Lincoff of New York was elected President. He succeeds Harry Knighton, the founder of NAMA and its president for the past 20 years. Margaret Lewis (Boston Mycological Club) was presented to prestigious "Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology". She has become recognized as an expert in the research in mycophagy and has recently completed a 40 year study on the preservation of edible mushrooms. PSMS in 1976 serialized an article by Mrs. Lewis "Longevity of Taste and Texture of Wild Mushrooms after Storage."

A MUSHROOM FORAY will be held by the Los Angeles Mycological Society in Southern California on February 8 - 10, 1980. Participating will be Drs. Alexander Smith and Harry Thiers. Write to LAMS Foray Reynolds, Botany, Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90007. Phone: (213) 744 3379.

HONORS TO DR. STUNTZ

Dr. David Hosford published an article honoring Dr. Stuntz in MYCOTAXON (a professional mycological journal) in which he gave tribute to Dr. Stuntz’ many achievements. An interesting feature of the article is a sketch showing all the professional mycologists Dr. Stuntz has taught. We are presently working on the technical aspects of getting a good reproduction of this sketch for Spore Prints.

The article also includes a listing of all the graduate degrees completed under the supervision of Dr. Stuntz, and where these degree holders are presently teaching or doing research. A quick count produces twenty-eight. On page nine of the article is a photo showing four of the "giants" in mycology together at the University of Michigan: L.R. Hesler, A.H. Smith, R. Singer and Dr. Stuntz. Through Dr. Stuntz efforts the UW has become prominent in mycological research.
In Kaufmann the genus Agaricus (masculine) is called by the obsolete name of Psalliota (feminine). This is why we have Agaricus abruptibulbus but Psalliota abruptibulba, Agaricus augustus but Psalliota augusta, Agaricus diminu­tus 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, corrigis, subculcis, and triviolis; 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, pepellars, and uncialis. Coke is neuter and ends in e; the neuter genus Tricholoma has species like: acre, grave, ustule. Hebeloma is also neuter and gives species like: crustiliniiforme, 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, e and (seldom) is. Is (Sis, 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 Kauf­mann to the index and you may quickly determine the gender of any genus by looking for the species endings of us, a, e, or i.

(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 grennei, Ramaria kusneri, Suillus grevillei. An exception, if the name ends in an a, add an e instead of an i; examples: Hygro­phorus laurae, Russula marioi. If the person's name ends in a consonant, add ii: Amanita waltersii, Boletus frostii, Leccinum snellii, Russula peckii. An exception, if the name ends in er, add only one i: Amanita cokeri, Coprinus bodiieri, Trichoglossum walteri. If the species was named as a compliment to someone who was not the discoverer, it may end in anus, ana, anom (m, f, n). Hence: Amanita atkinsoniana, Phallota 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 there is often 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, anom (m, f, n). Some examples: Clitocybe highlandensis, Clitocybip novacegensis, Cordyceps canadenisis, Stropharia americana, Wynnea americana, Dysteropus virginiticus. In the past other terminations were used such as acus, aca, acum, inus, ino, inum, cola; for example: Hypomyces armeniacus; Hirschioperus oblitetus, 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 milleculps, pes as in Flammulina velutipes, olides 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: Leptota cortinarius, Hygrophorus russula (both Cortinarius 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?

MINI-PROFILE ON TWO ACTIVE MEMBERS

Earl and Margo Harrison are relative newcomers to our Society, joining in 1975, but they both became active nearly from the beginning. Earl has served two years on the Board, and is now our Treasurer. He pays the Society's bills and keeps the books in perfect order. Earl is a CPA, and in his work he plies his profession as Controller at Valley General Hospital in Renton. Margo has been teaching in the Seattle Public Schools for 28 years, during which time she has become very active in the membership of interesting and friendly people, and for the Society it is the assurance that the mission the founders put forth will be carried out with knowledge, skill, and dedication.