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## The Edinburgh and Glasgow copies of Elias Fries's *Scleromyceti Sueciae*

R. Watling

26 Blinkbonny Avenue, Edinburgh EH4 3HU

E-mail: [caledonianmyc@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:caledonianmyc@blueyonder.co.uk)

Elias Magnus Fries (1794-1878) is considered to be the "Father of Mycology" and his *Systema Mycologicum* (Fries, 1821-32) is regarded as the starting point for the nomenclature of most fungal groups. Amongst his other important achievements is *Scleromyceti Sueciae*, which was produced in the form of "exsiccati" – collections of dried herbarium specimens published in duplicate sets. Fries issued these from Lund, Sweden during the years 1819-1825 and their specimens form part of the type for the species described in his *Systema Mycologicum* (Hutchinson, 1964). In this contribution I provide information on two copies of *Scleromyceti Sueciae* that are currently located in Scotland.

During the preparation of a revision of the Reverend J. Stevenson's *Mycologia Scotia* (Stevenson, 1879) and a review of the mycological collections (fungarium) of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), it became apparent that also housed in RBGE was a large number of Elias Fries's collections from *Scleromyceti Sueciae*, made by him or under his direction. The material in RBGE had been cut from its original folders, as is the case for many other copies located in Europe, and each species was filed in the fungarium under its current name.

*Scleromyceti Sueciae* was issued in 34 "Decads" bound into nine "Fascicles". As recounted by Holm & Nannfeldt (1963), Professor C.L. Shear (1865-1956), who had visited Uppsala, Sweden in 1905 whilst making a special study of Fries's publication, found eight fascicles made up of Decads I-IV in RBGE. He considered that the Edinburgh material was part of a second edition of Fries's work, not as important, but of considerable note. It appears to have been offered for sale in the autumn of 1834 and is not as complete as the first edition, as Fries did not have printed labels for the collections or used old ones. It appears to have been prepared (possibly in haste) before Fries left Lund for a position in Uppsala. Holm & Nannfeldt (1963) include a page of handwriting which had indicated to Shear that some of the specimens had been labelled by a "secretary", later named as "Wallenberg".

The second edition, as exemplified by the Edinburgh material, was simpler than the first and the specimens were glued to loose pieces of paper 10 x 8 cm in size.

Specimens 1-340 apparently were issued with the intention of duplicating the original edition; 341-460 had not been distributed before and appear also to have been labelled by Wallenberg. Holm & Nannfeldt (1963) published an appendix to the title pages for Fascicles 2-4, a checklist, and a commentary on the latter checklist, as well as the correspondence with Shear. Holm & Nannfeldt (1963) had not been aware of the existence of a second edition and it was only through Shear's investigation and diligence that such an edition became known. In addition, Holm, Nannfeldt and Shear were unaware that a *first* edition was located in Scotland.

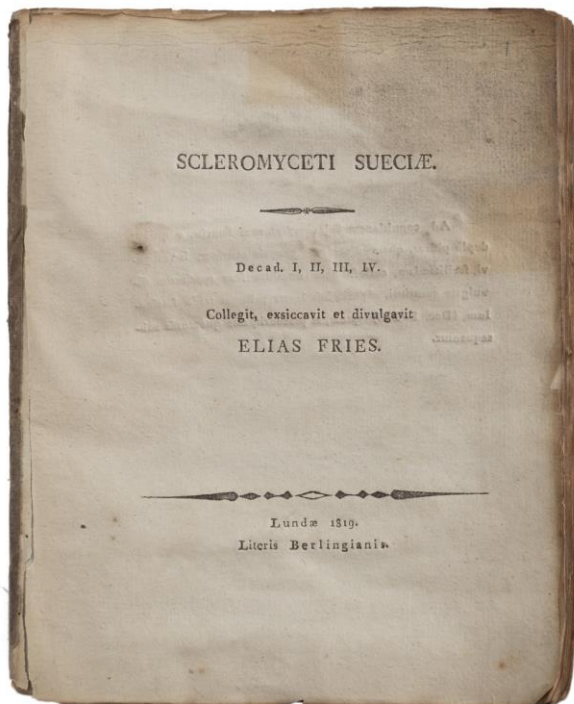
In 1958, John Walton (1895-1971), Regius Professor of Botany at the University of Glasgow from 1930 to 1962, found an uncut first edition copy of *Scleromyceti Sueciae* amongst artifacts left by his predecessors (Hutchinson, 1964). This may have been purchased by Professor George Walker-Arnott (1845-1867), who succeeded John Hutton Balfour (1808-1884) as Regius Chair of Botany, and who had already made strong connections with Sweden, having been awarded the King Gustaf Medal. The publication was in a wooden cabinet with eight shelves. Even though he was a palaeobotanist by training, Professor Walton realised the significance of this collection and that specimens in copies of this work formed part of the descriptions on which many of the species are based, which made it one of the most important mycological collections held in Scotland.

Some four years later, Stephen Hutchinson, a mycologist in the same Department of Botany, produced a brief account of the discovery of this uncut first edition for *The Glasgow Naturalist* (Hutchinson, 1964), indicating that, if anyone wished to see it, they would require permission from the Regius Professor. He noted that, though lacking one fascicle, it was one of the best preserved first editions of this important scientific work.

In 2001, the Department of Botany's Bower Building suffered a devastating fire, which destroyed most of the structures of the department and their effects. I was curious to know what became of the copy of *Scleromyceti Sueciae*. With the help of Richard Weddle, Glasgow Natural History Society, I eventually discovered that the cabinet had survived and was located in Glasgow Life Museums, as confirmed by its curator, Keith Watson (Fig. 1). It transpired that, as part of the university's restructuring of life-sciences during the 1990s, the Department of Botany's large herbarium had been moved from the Bower Building to the Graham Kerr Building (which had housed the former Department of Zoology). Later in 2007, the British herbarium specimens were transferred to Glasgow Life Museums, with overseas specimens moving to the RBGE. The Fries cabinet was apparently included in the transfer to Glasgow Life Museums, though its significance was not then appreciated.



**Fig. 1.** Cabinet housing the Glasgow copy of *Scleromyceci Sueciae*. (Photo: © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection)



**Fig. 2.** Title page of the Glasgow copy of *Scleromyceci Sueciae*. (Photo: © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection)



**Fig. 3.** Specimen of “*Sph. [Sphaeria] conspersa*” (now *Tympanis conspersa*) from the Glasgow copy of *Scleromyceci Sueciae*. (Photo: © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection)

The Glasgow copy of *Scleromyceci Sueciae* (Figs. 2 and 3) is composed of sheets approximately 21 x 16 cm in size and bound with notes and indices in the original grey paper cover. It consists of the following: Fascicle 1, Decads 1-IV (1819); Fascicle 2, Decads V-VII (1820); Fascicle 3, Decads VIII-XI (1820); Fascicle 4, Decads XII-XIV (1820); Fascicle 5, Decads XV-XVIII (1821); Fascicle 6, Decads XIX-XXII (1821); and Fascicle 8, Decads, XXVIII-XXX (1822). Fascicle 7 is missing and was not found when Professor Walton discovered the copy. As there have been several moves of the Department of Botany since the time of Professor Walker-Arnott, it may be permanently lost. Hutchinson (1964) found that some specimens were missing: No. 36 *Sphaeria complanata* (now *Calophoma complanata*), No. 88 *Lophium excipuliforme*, No. 120 *Sphaeria pulvis-pyrius* (now *Melanomma pulvis-pyrius*), No. 185 *Sphaeria microstoma* (now *Cytospora populina*), and No. 274 *Sphaeronema pyriforme*, a species not recognized in the Index of Fungi (<https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/index-of-fungi/>).

Keith Watson has data-based all the specimens in the Decads under their original names and this will be available on Glasgow Life Museums’ website (<https://collections.glasgowmuseums.com/mwebcgi/mweb?request=home>).

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