

SCLEROTIUM SUBTERRANEUM.

Orange Sclerotium.

CLASS AND ORDER CRYPTOGAMIA FUNGI, *Linn.*—NAT. ORD. GASTROMYCI³
Link, Grev.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Massa subglobosa aut difformis, intus homogenea, vesiculosa, carnosa, vel cornea.
(*Sporulae incognitae.*)

A subglobose or shapeless mass, within homogeneous, vesiculose, fleshy or corneous. (Sporules have not been discovered.)

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

SCLEROTIUM subterraneum; *gregarium, spongiosum, rotundatum sed valde inaequale quandoque lobatum; colore omnino aureo-flavo vel albido.*

Sc. gregarious, spongy, rounded but very unequal, sometimes lobed; colour wholly orange-yellow or whitish.

SCLEROTIUM subterraneum, *Tode, Meckl. Fung.* 1. p. 3. t. 1. f. 5.—*Alb. et Schwein.* p. 73.—*De Cand. in Mém. du Mus.* v. 2. p. 401. No. 3.—*Grev. Fl. Edin.* p. 461.

SCLEROTIUM Muscorum, *Pers. Syn. Fung.* p. 120.—*Schwein. Syn. Fung. Carol.* No. 308.

HAB. Attached to the roots or decaying stems of mosses, or on dead wood and roots of trees beneath the surface of the soil. Summit of Ben-Reishapol, W. C. TREVELYAN, Esq. On various Highland mountains, chiefly growing on *Trichostomum lanuginosum*. Between Newhaven and Caroline Park, near Edinburgh, on *Hypnum squarrosus*. Autumn.

Aggregated, rounded, extremely irregular, tuberculated or lobed, fine orange, yellowish or whitish; of a spongy yet firm substance, solid, homogeneous throughout, and of a similar colour; varying in size from 1 line or less to 4 or 5 lines in diameter, the whitish variety being the largest.

This species of *Sclerotium* is probably of frequent occurrence, but has not been often observed either in this country or on the Continent. Its peculiar place of growth is sufficient to account for the paucity of information concerning it. In the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, I have repeatedly met with it,