

*Hab.* On dead coniferous wood in subalpine regions.—Switzerland, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington.

3. *C. laxa* Rost. Mon., 201 (1875) (loose). Plasmodium watery-white. Total height, 1 to 3.5 mm. Sporangia subglobose or shortly cylindrical, obtuse, scattered or gregarious. Stalk black, shining, often stout, 0.2 to 0.6 mm. long. Columella reaching nearly to the apex of the sporangium, narrowed upwards. Capillitium usually lax, the primary threads springing from all parts of the columella, at first straight or slightly curved, branching towards the surface to form a loose network of slender threads, either looped and anastomosing or with numerous straight free ends. Spores purplish-grey or brown, minutely and closely spinulose, 7 to 13  $\mu$  diam.—Macbr. N. Am. Slime-Moulds, ed. 2, 177. *Stemonitis laxa* Mass. Mon., 79 (1892). *Badhamia penetralis* Cooke & Ellis in Grev., v. 49 (1876)? *Lamproderma Ellisiana* Cooke in Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. York, xi. 397 (1877)? *Comatricha macrosperma* Racib. in Rozpr. Mat. Przyr. Akad. Krak., xii. 76 (1884). *C. Ellisiana* Ellis & Everh. N. Am. Fung., ser. 2, no. 2696 (1891). *C. Sommerfeltii* Blytt in Bidr. K. Norg., Sop. iii. 8 (1892). *C. Ellisii* Morg. in Journ. Cinc. Soc. Nat. Hist., xvi. 133 (1894); Macbr. l.c., 184.

Var. *rigida* Brandza in Ann. Sc. de l'Univ. de Jassy, xi. 126 (1921). Capillitium scanty, of rather rigid threads; columella often widely forking at the apex; spores 8 to 13  $\mu$ , spinulose.

Pl. 124.—*a, b, c.* sporangia of various shapes (England); *d.* three sporangia showing capillitium; *e.* capillitium; *f, g.* spores.

Intermediate forms connect this species with *C. nigra*, of which it is hardly more than a marked variety. The type in the Strasburg collection is well rendered by the photographic figure in Rostafinski's Monograph; it is a globose form with coarse and lax capillitium. A similar form is found at Lyme Regis accompanied by more elongated sporangia with denser capillitium resembling the type of *C. Ellisiana* Ellis & Everh. (B.M. 1800). *C. Sommerfeltii* Blytt has the lax capillitium of Rostafinski's type of *C. laxa*, but has larger spores, 11 to 14  $\mu$  diam.; *C. macrosperma* Racib. and *C. laxa* var. *microcarpa* Meylan (Bull. Soc. Vaud. Sc. Nat., liii. 456 (1921)) both represent a large-spored form, which is not of unfrequent occurrence; the large spores are often but not always associated with scanty capillitium. *Lamproderma Ellisiana* Cooke is described as having spherical sporangia on subulate stalks, slender forking, blackish-purple capillitium threads radiating from the apex of a short columella, and pale lilac spores, 15 to 16  $\mu$  diam., grouped in small clusters. Nothing remains of the type from New Jersey (K. 614) but a few naked stalks; whether the specimen was in part a *Lamproderma*, as Masee believed (Mon., 98), or a form of *Comatricha laxa*, the same form in fact as *Comatricha Ellisiana* (syn. *Lamproderma Ellisiana* Ellis & Everh.), cannot now be determined.

*Hab.* On dead wood and twigs: not uncommon in the British Isles, and widely distributed throughout Europe and the United States; recorded also from Malaya and Japan; var. *rigida* from Roumania and Minnesota.

4. *C. elegans* Lister in Guide to British Mycetoza, ed. 3, 31