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Pathologist's Branch,

Melbourne, 16th Oct 1903

My Dear Sir,

I have often wondered if any concerted action is likely to be taken in connection with the numerous fungi which are so insufficiently described that it is impossible from the description to recognize them. Where a type-specimen exists then a fresh description could be drawn up from the modern standpoint, giving all the important points necessary for the recognition of the species & if type-specimens do not exist & the descriptions are too imperfect & meagre to enable the species to be recognized with certainty, then the name should be allowed to lapse. This work if undertaken at all should be thorough & I do not see why it should not be undertaken through an Association of Botanists. Hundreds of examples could be given from each division of fungi, but I will just take an example from my work at the present moment. I am describing species of Phoma on some Australian

Orchids & I find *P. orchidearum* Ces. described as follows
in the Sylloge:—(English) *Pirithoea* covered by the *epidermis*,
very minute, in small groups, membranaceous, depressed-
globose.

Now if type-specimens of this exist, the description should
be extended so as to enable the species to be recognized
& if it does not exist then the name should be
expunged from the list of fungi. I have no certainty
that my species is or is not *P. orchidearum* Ces. &
so new names are given possibly to the detriment
of the science.

Mr. Masse puts the whole thing in a nut-shell when
he ~~says~~ states that three things at least should be done

1. The hundreds of imperfect specific diagnoses, which
from their inaccuracy & brevity are absolutely useless,
& lacking type specimens of the same, should be henceforth
omitted from mycological works.
2. In the case of imperfect descriptions where authentic
material exists, emended descriptions should be published.
3. Uniformity in specific diagnoses.

As far as I myself am concerned I would be willing
to forward to any properly constituted Central Bureau
authentic specimens of all the new fungi described
by me.

You have done so much for Mycological Science
that it may seem cruel to ask you to do
more, but it is just because you have done
so much that I am empowered to ask you
to cap your labours by having the Science purged
of a lot of useless lumber.

Prof. P. Saccardo

Yours faithfully
J. M. Alpine