

# SCIENCE

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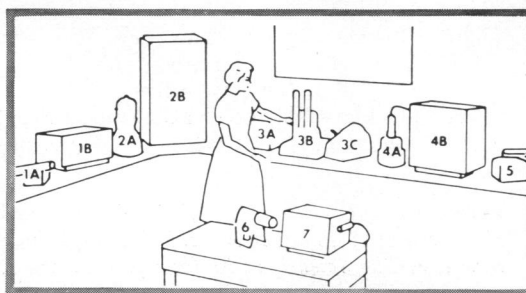
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for critical comparative evaluation. The keys are constructed on minimal discriminating criteria, and the many figures—simple line drawings—serve well to illustrate the inconspicuous but pertinent points of specific discrimination. The descriptions have been reworked, in many cases, from firsthand study of living material or from thorough reexamination of preserved original materials.

Commendable as this approach is in general—and in practically every case in particular—it led to one item of error that happens to lie within my spotting competence: the keyed distinction between the two heterothallic species of the genus, *A. bisexualis* and *A. ambisexualis*, is that the oospores (zygotes) of the former usually abort. This is a libel on a once perfectly virile fungus that has grown increasingly impotent under enforced and prolonged domestication, and precisely the same manifestations of senility now appear in the strains of *both* species that are currently available from the two culture collections in which they were deposited about 1951! In extenuation, however, it is a rare mycologist indeed who has not at one time or another been embarrassed by the sexual inconstancy of fungi in continued culture.

In addition to the taxonomic treatment of the genus *Achlya*, there is an all-too-summary introduction, comprising sections devoted to the history of the understanding of the biology of the group, the occurrence and distribution of its members in nature, and the methods of their collection, isolation, and culture. This introductory material could apply equally well to the entire group of water molds, and it is here that one could wish that the author had written with less restraint. The taxonomic problems here represent only one facet of a very interesting group of plants, and the book would have had far wider appeal had there been a broader treatment of the group.

To anyone who happens to have an unknown *Achlya* on his hands, the book will prove invaluable; it is not likely, unfortunately, to send anyone scurrying to the nearest pond in search of unknown *Achlyas* or to stimulate any appreciable new interest in an unusual group of plants that deserves greater recognition among biologists generally.

JOHN R. RAPER

Harvard University

## Books Reviewed in

### The Scientific Monthly, October

*Rockets, Missiles and Space Travel*, W. Ley (Viking). Reviewed by T. S. Gardner.

*Medical Department, United States Army, Surgery in World War II*, vol. II,

*General Surgery*, Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army. Reviewed by M. C. Leikind.

*Quest for a Continent*, W. Sullivan (McGraw-Hill). Reviewed by H. G. R. King.

*Operation Deepfreeze*, G. J. Dufek (Harcourt, Brace). Reviewed by H. G. R. King.

*Natural History of Birds*, L. W. Wing (Ronald). Reviewed by H. G. Deignan.

*Family Medical Costs and Voluntary Health Insurance: a Nationwide Survey*, O. W. Anderson with J. J. Feldman (Blakiston Div., McGraw-Hill). Reviewed by R. V. Lee.

*1001 Questions Answered about the Seashore*, N. J. Berrill and J. Berrill (Dodd, Mead). Reviewed by D. P. Abbott.

*Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy*, H. A. Kissinger (Harper). Reviewed by B. Brodie.

*Archaeology in the U.S.S.R.*, M. Miller (Praeger). Reviewed by M. Gimbuta.

*Light, Vegetation and Chlorophyll*, J. Terrien, G. Truffaut, J. Carles; translated by M. E. Thompson (Philosophical Library). Reviewed by J. Bonner.

*The Fight for Fluoridation*, D. R. McNeil (Oxford Univ. Press). Reviewed by A. P. Black.

*Follow the Whale*, I. T. Sanderson (Little, Brown). Reviewed by W. E. Schevill.

*The Language of Modern Physics*, E. H. Hutten (Allen & Unwin; Macmillan). Reviewed by P. Suppes.

*A History of Mechanics*, R. Dugas; translated by J. R. Maddox (Griffon; Central Book). Reviewed by D. J. Price.

*About Earthquakes*, G. A. Eiby (Harper). Reviewed by B. Gutenberg.

*The Amateur Astronomer*, P. Moore (Norton). Reviewed by J. W. Chamberlain.

*A Key to the Stars*, R. van der Riet Woolley (Philosophical Library). Reviewed by J. W. Chamberlain.

## New Books

*Metallurgical Progress—3*. A third series of critical reviews (reprinted from *Iron & Steel*). Iliffe, London; Philosophical Library, New York, 1957. 88 pp. \$6.

*Movement of the Heart and Blood in Animals*. An anatomical essay. William Harvey. Translated from the original Latin by Kenneth J. Franklin and published for The Royal College of Physicians of London. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1957. 209 pp. \$3.50.

*Natürliche und Künstliche Erbänderungen*. Probleme der Mutationsforschung. Hans Marquardt. Rowohlt, Hamburg, 1957. 177 pp.

*Rogers' Inorganic Pharmaceutical Chemistry*. Taito O. Soine and Charles O. Wilson. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, ed. 6, 1957. 705 pp. \$9.50.

*Polyethylene*. Theodore O. J. Kresser. Reinhold, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1957. 217 pp. \$4.95.

*Radiation Shielding*. B. T. Price, C. C. Horton, K. T. Spinney. Pergamon Press, London, 1957. 359 pp. \$10.

*Swine Feeding and Nutrition*. Tony J. Cunha. Interscience, New York, 1957. 296 pp. \$5.

*A Textbook of Dairy Chemistry*. vol. I, *Theoretical*; vol. II, *Practical*. Edgar R. Ling. Philosophical Library, New York, ed. 3, 1957. 227 pp.; 140 pp. \$12 per set.

*Vanguard!* The story of the first man-made satellite. Martin Caidin. Dutton, New York, 1957. 288 pp. \$3.95.

*Zinsser Bacteriology*. David T. Smith, Norman F. Conant and others, Eds. Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, ed. 11 of *Textbook of Bacteriology* by Hiss and Zinsser, 1957. 966 pp.

*Advances in Catalysis and Related Subjects*. vol. IX, *Proceedings of the International Congress on Catalysis*. Philadelphia, 1956. Adalbert Farkas, Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1957. 865 pp. \$16.

*Animals Parasitic in Man*. Geoffrey Lapage. Penguin Books, Baltimore 11, 1957. 320 pp. Paper, \$0.95.

*The Atlantic*. A history of an ocean. Leonard Outhwaite. Coward-McCann, New York, 1957. 479 pp. \$6.50.

*Constructing an Astronomical Telescope*. G. Matthewson. Philosophical Library, New York, ed. 2, 1957. 100 pp. \$3.

*A Dictionary of Scientific Terms*. Pronunciation, derivation, and definition of terms in biology, botany, zoology, anatomy, cytology, genetics, embryology, physiology. I. F. Henderson and W. D. Henderson; ed. 6 by J. H. Kenneth. Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., ed. 6, 1957. 548 pp. \$12.50.

*The Direction of Research Establishments*. Proceedings of a symposium held at the National Physical Laboratory 26–28 September 1956. National Physical Laboratory. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1957 (order from British Information Service, New York). 4 sections.

*Drugs and the Mind*. Robert S. de Ropp. St. Martin's, New York, 1957. 320 pp. \$4.50.

*Functional Neuro-Anatomy*. Including an atlas of the brain stem. A. R. Buchanan. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, ed. 3, 1957. 362 pp. \$7.50.

*The Hebrew Iliad*. The history of the rise of Israel under Saul and David. Written during the reign of Solomon probably by the priest Ahimaaz. Translated from the original Hebrew by Robert H. Pfeiffer; general and chapter introductions by William G. Pollard. Harper, New York, 1957. 154 pp. \$2.50.

*History of Entomology in World War II*. Publication 4294. Emory C. Cushing. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, 1957. 123 pp.

*An Introduction to Reactor Physics*. D. J. Littler and J. F. Raffle. Published for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. McGraw-Hill, New York; Pergamon, London, ed. 2, 1957. 218 pp.

*Magnetohydrodynamics*. A symposium. Rolf K. M. Landshoff, Ed. Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif., 1957. 125 pp. \$4.



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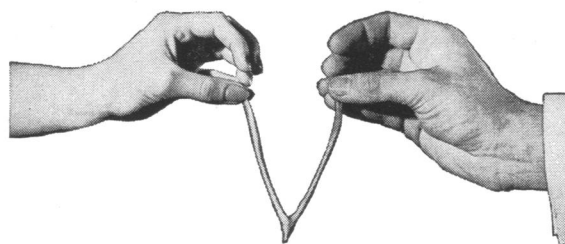
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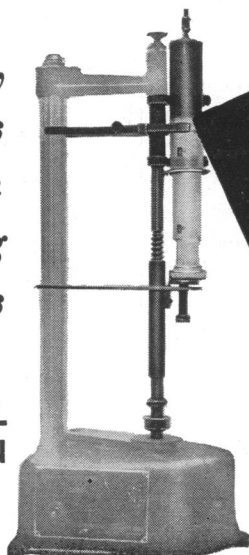
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