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THE MYXOMYCETES OR SLIME-MOULDS OF THE OTTAWA DISTRICT; A PRELIMINARY LIST.

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For some time past the writer has given such attention as was possible to the study of the plants known by the names of Myxomycetes, Mycetozoa, and Slime Moulds, and on coming to reside at Ottawa in the spring of last year decided to collect and study as thoroughly as the pressure of other duties would permit, the representatives of the group to be found in the locality, in the hope that after a few seasons' work a fairly good knowledge of the Myxomycetes of the local flora might be obtained and the enquiry extended into a wider field. This seemed a desirable object for two reasons. In the first place one or two preliminary collecting trips seemed to indicate that the neighbourhood would prove rich in these organisms, and secondly, there seemed a need for the study of our Canadian species. While no very exhaustive search has been made through the literature of the subject, yet, incidentally, a good many works and papers have been consulted, and so far only one reference to a paper dealing with Canadian species, either from a local or a general standpoint, has been noticed, namely a paper by Mr. C. L. Moore on the Myxomycetes of Pictou Co., N.S. (1908). Some rather interesting data are, furthermore, to be obtained from Prof. Macbride's "North American Slime Moulds", the standard work on the American forms. In this work about 220 species are described as occurring in North and Central America, and of these about 127 are recorded from New England and New York State, an area contiguous with that of Eastern Canada. In the same work, however, only about 25 species are mentioned as known to occur in Canada, and two of these are from western localities. As there seems no good reason for supposing Eastern Canada to be greatly poorer in species than the adjacent territory to the south, it might have been inferred that even a very cursory examination of the district would result in extending our knowledge of the