

Collected Oct. 14th., 1903.	Dry Matter. per cent.	Crude Protein. per cent.
1. <i>Marasmius oreades</i> , mature ...	10.15	4.67
2. <i>Coprinus atramentarius</i>	5.67	1.37
3. " <i>comatus</i> , immature...	9.10	2.97
4. " " mature...	6.77	2.71
5. " " old, but firm	6.14	1.36

In the case of the *Marasmius*, it was found that 70 per cent. of the crude protein was present as albuminoids. Of the crude protein in mature *C. comatus* (No. 4), 68 per cent. existed as albuminoids, a percentage that was reduced to 48 in the older specimens of the same species (No. 5). Unfortunately, by reason of insufficient material, the proportion of albuminoids in the crude protein of Nos. 2 and 3 could not be determined.

When it is pointed out that but few of our commonly used vegetables and salad plants contain more than 10 per cent. to 11 per cent. dry matter—and many of them, as vegetable marrow, celery, lettuce, cucumbers, &c., do not possess much more than half such an amount—it will be obvious that mushrooms are worthy to rank with these most useful articles of diet. But it is not merely in dry matter that the edible fungi make their claim to recognition as a food. This dry matter is highly nitrogenous. Our data on this point are very clear. Further, these analyses indicate that the greater part of this nitrogenous matter exists in the more valuable form of albuminoids. In this respect, mushrooms are without doubt much superior to vegetables and fruits.

If time permits, this work will be continued during the coming season. There are many other species of edible fungi in abundance, in addition to those mentioned in this note, and we hope, as opportunity offers, to ascertain their relative food values. We, further, wish to examine these mushrooms at various stages of growth, for the results from the *C. comatus* here given would indicate a falling off in nutritive value after reaching a certain degree of edible maturity, due to decreasing dry matter and albuminoids. This may only occur in the deliquescent fungi, but it will be interesting to have further data upon what must be considered a point of both scientific and economic importance.

Laboratory, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, May 1st, 1904.