

MYCOTAXON

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DANIEL E. STUNTZ--A DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR
AND FRIEND

by
David Ramon Hosford
Department of Biological Sciences
Central Washington University
Ellensburg, WA 98926

An Apology:

I would like to confess that I gathered much of the following from Dr. Stuntz without his approval or knowledge. Several means were used, but the most productive and, perhaps, most subversive were the wine sessions we shared sporadically over the last thirteen years. I sincerely hope memory of what was said during those occasions was not influenced too greatly by the exquisite wines imbibed. If so, my apologies, Dr. Stuntz, but let me assure you that I will never forget the friendship and details of vintages we shared.

Daniel E. Stuntz was born in Milford, Ohio, but moved at an early age to Seattle, a move never regretted largely because of the hot, muggy summers which adversely effected his health as a child. The family lived in the beautiful Magnolia district overlooking the Puget Sound, a place which offered nearby woods and chilly, sparkling waters in which to play. Surviving a normal childhood, one tale of his youth particularly gives us a glimpse of his inventiveness. He and his cousin loved to experiment in the kitchen (likely, in secrecy). On one occasion they developed a most unusual concoction which he still gladly shares. It is called "Stuntz's All Service Spice" with the following recipe: take one tsp. of celery seed, one tsp. (\pm) of baking soda, and mix liberally with an adequate amount of vanilla extract to produce a "drinkable" slurry; serve, if you dare! Having tried this, you'll find that it is particularly useful as an emetic. In hindsight, these trial and error experiments must have helped "mould" him into the connoisseur we know today.

Daniel's interest in botany was influenced by his father's business in sugar cane. His father spent much time on plantations in Cuba and the southern United States

and, at least once, took him to Cuba. Daniel vividly recalls this experience, particularly the processing of the canes and the futile attempts of rats trying to escape from the hopper of the sugar cane press. Today, he is mildly amused at the mentioning of "pure," unrefined cane sugar so popular with the "organic" generation. While his father was away during the school year, Daniel often stayed with his aunt in Seattle. In later years, his parents moved to Pateros in north central Washington where his father established a business processing apples into concentrate.

In 1931, Daniel enrolled at the University of Washington. His choice of forestry was apparently influenced to some degree by a family friend and oculist. He advised Daniel to consider forestry, presumably for reasons relating to Daniel's near-sightedness (reportedly, equivalent to 40X hand lens) and the supposed non-eyestraining, outdoor life-style of the forester. Although his freshman courses in forestry, physical sciences, math, and engineering design were far from an outdoor experience, he excelled in them. It was later in that year or the next that he took his first botany course on the fungi (as we all know, pronounced fun-gee). The course in general mycology, taught by Dr. J. W. Hotson, convinced him that he had chosen the wrong major. Seeking to correct his mistake, he met with Dr. Frye, the stern chairman of the botany department. Dr. Frye's first reply to his request to enter botany was, "Young man, I do not seem to remember what your aspirations are." Daniel cautiously made his aspirations clear and was accordingly accepted into the program. Needless to say, he had found his niche and, in 1935, received a Bachelor of Science degree in botany. Afterwards he commenced work on a Masters degree under the supervision of Dr. Hotson.

His interest in the taxonomy of agarics was sparked by Hotson, a rust specialist, who loved agarics but apparently had little time to do research on them. As an undergraduate, Daniel began collecting mushrooms and occasionally had the opportunity to meet visiting mycologists. One of the most memorable meetings was in 1935 with Alexander Smith. They collected in the Olympic Mountains together and became lifelong friends.

His choice of graduate thesis came about through an innocent attempt to key out a mushroom, with angular-nodulose spores, to the genus *Cortinarius*. Mildly frustrated, Dr. Hotson came to his rescue and gently suggested that he try *Inocybe*. Becoming aware of the horrendous number of unidentifiable *Inocybe* species, he bravely began a floristic survey. However, just before completing his thesis, he received an opportunity which abruptly changed his immediate plans. In 1937, Dr. Frye approached him with the possibility (he stressed 'possibility') that, if he would get a Ph.D. at Yale under the famous forest pathologist, John S. Boyce, he might be considered as a replacement for Dr. Hotson, whose health was rapidly failing. Fully aware of the shortage of academic positions

at that time, he quickly applied to Yale and was accepted by Dr. Boyce.

In spite of New Haven, he quickly adjusted to Yale and a course of study in forest pathology under Boyce. For his doctoral thesis, he proposed to expand his work on *Inocybe*, particularly since he now had better access to North American types in eastern herbaria. Dr. Boyce received the idea enthusiastically but quickly proclaimed, "I don't know an agaric from a battleship." Undaunted, however, he began the monographic work. He gratefully recalls receiving taxonomic help from Alexander Smith who extended an invitation to visit and use the herbarium and mycological library at the University of Michigan. He accepted the offer and "slithered" by auto and Ann Arbor one Christmas recess. He completed his thesis and Ph.D. in 1940 and, in the same year, accepted Dr. Hotson's vacated position at the University of Washington.

Hired as an instructor in botany, he initially taught Forest Pathology, General Mycology, and a plethora of bread 'n' butter courses such as Economic Botany. His earlier apprenticeship as a graduate teaching assistant apparently prepared him well. In 1959, he was promoted to full professor and in 1974 received the honorary title of Distinguished Professor, an immense honor, considering the number of faculty he was chosen from and the number of students attending the University (approximately 2,400 and 35,000, respectively). His courses were always of the highest quality, providing a thorough background in historical and current developments and literature, and uniquely organized with original illustrations and taxonomic keys. Lectures were never flamboyant or pretentious, but instead eloquent presentations sprinkled with humorous comments (seemingly missed by all but the most attentive) and beautiful color drawings in chalk.

During his years at the University, he enlarged the mycology offerings to include: Basidiomycetes (excluding the Rusts and Smuts); Ascomycetes (excluding the Yeasts); Yeasts and Related Forms; and Rusts, Smuts, and Fungi Imperfecti. During his tenure, Dr. Howard Wisler joined the staff and a course in Phycomycetes was added. Therefore, due to Daniel's presence, the University of Washington became a major center for mycological training and research.

The assessment of the total influence of such a man is impossible, particularly while he is still actively working. Leaving the impossible undone, I will mention only some of his more obvious accomplishments. Notable is his legacy of mycologists (Fig. 1), many of whom are active in teaching and research. Those at universities are likewise producing a second generation of mycologists. Another important contribution that should be noted is his extensive work with the amateur. For years, he has taught evening and weekend mushroom identification courses (gratis). He revised and enlarged the popular field guide to northwest species, *The Savory Wild Mushroom*. In 1963, he helped organize, and still advises, the huge Puget

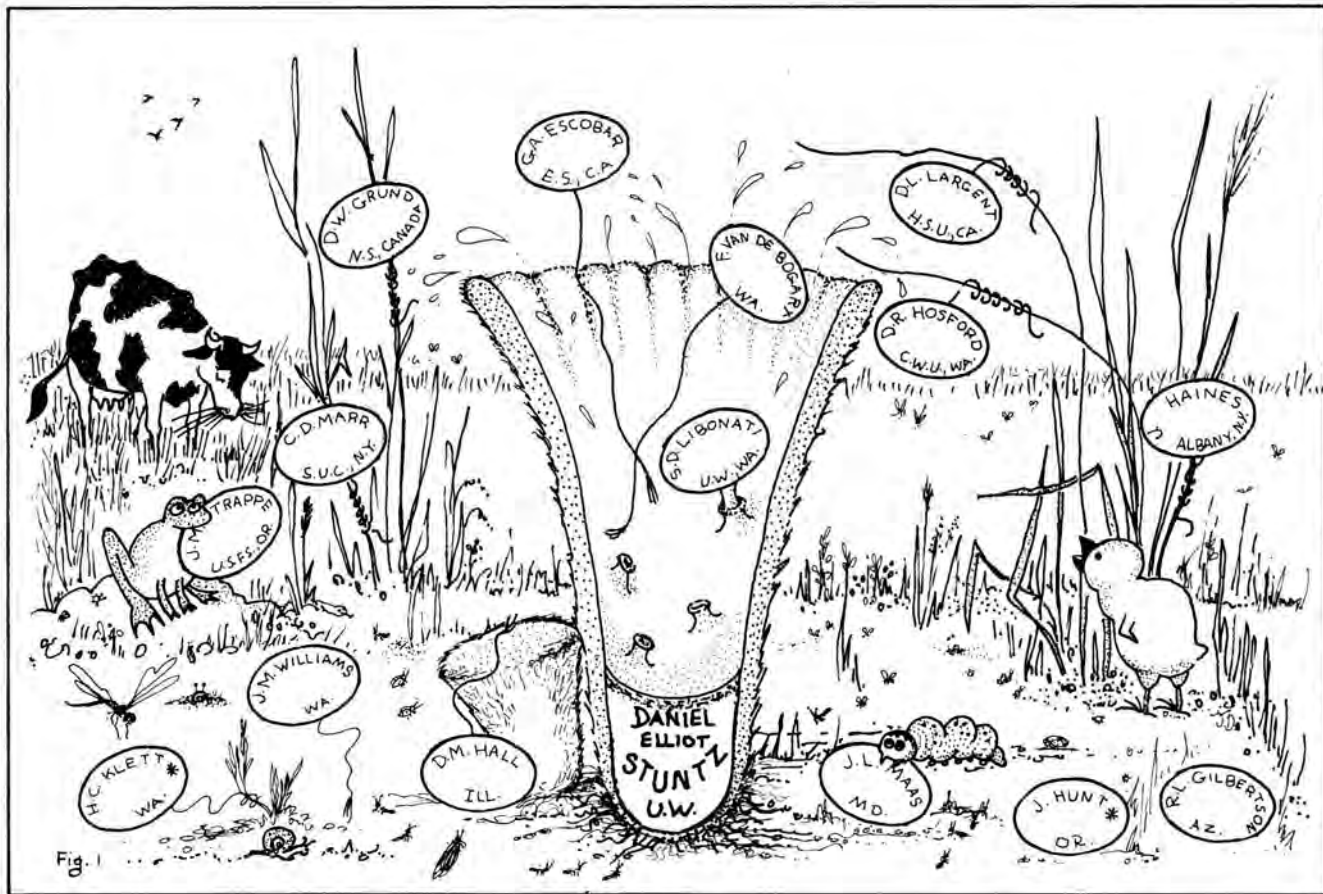
Sound Mycological Society. This organization has spawned at least a dozen smaller groups around the northwest.

In the 1967 edition of *American Men of Science*, he listed his specialties as morphology and taxonomy of Basidiomycetes and Ascomycetes. His published work in these areas, often co-authored, is extensive and covers a wide range of fungi. Over the years, he has steadfastly worked on *Inocybe*. Although he would be the last to admit it, progress on the monograph has been impeded by relatively heavy teaching responsibilities and large numbers of graduate students (Table I). Yet, he has published new species and has completed a manuscript (unpublished) on Sect. *Inocybium* (*sensu* Stuntz) of Subg. *Inocybium* (Earle) Singer. This section, at last count, includes 455 species, 29 varieties, and 18 forms, and contains only the smooth spored species with pleurocystidia. In the near future, he hopes to finish the "rough" spored section of Subg. *Inocybe* and publish the complete monograph.

Finally, I would like to list a few personal memories, many of which his students will certainly remember. I recall: his unselfish sharing of time and unbelievable patience; his incredible mycological library and facility with the literature; his occasional catnaps late at night or during seminars; his Louisiana coffee breaks; his legendary supply of exotic pastries (thanks for those scrumptuous maple bars, Dr. Stuntz!), luscious fruit, cheeses, breads, and beverages; his shopping excursions for pastries to supply the day's lab; his surprise gifts of expensive books, autographed in his unforgeable style (see cover); his occasional expressions of frustration (like ". . . 40,000 tons of inspissated Emeu . . ."); his evenings at the symphony; the incessant ringing of his telephone during the mushroom season; his Friday Harbor excursions and the Stuntz Foray; and Friday evening wine sessions. Best, though, is the memory of having experienced the stimulating intellect of this gentle and kind man.

It is for these reasons, and many more, that his students and colleagues wish to dedicate this issue of *Mycotaxon* to Daniel E. Stuntz, now Professor Emeritus.

Figure 1. D. E. Stuntz's mycological descendants, restricted to those teaching in colleges and universities and/or active in research. For a more complete listing of graduate students refer to Table I.
*deceased





Left - Daniel, about 4 years old. Photo taken in Ohio.
Right - Daniel, about 10 years old. Photo taken in Seattle.



Dr. Stuntz and a roosting friend. Daniel has always been fond of pets. Many will remember Midge, his Boston terrier, and the many stray cats who wisely adopted him (his "cat" food is reportedly the best in Seattle). He has also been the recipient of a number of unusual pets: Caligula the *Iguana* (may he rest in Peace!); a nest of praying mantes; and an assortment of snakes and turtles.



From left to right, L. R. Hesler, A. H. Smith, R. Singer, and D. E. Stuntz. Photo was taken in the early 1950's at the University of Michigan Biological Station.



*Left - Dr. Stuntz collecting in the field, 1950.
Right - Dr. Stuntz and friends arriving at Friday Harbor (San Juan Island) for a weekend of gourmet meals and mushroom collecting. About Nov. 1974.*



Daniel Stuntz and his friend Albert Pilát, together in Seattle during the 1969 International Botanical Congress.



Dr. Stuntz examining an *Inocybe* at (typical) close range.



Dr. Stuntz relaxing in Oneonta, N. Y., just after the 1977 Peck Foray. Swinging with Gloria Hosford and Currie Marr.



Dr. Stuntz in his Johnson Hall laboratory, U.W., 1978.

Table I

GRADUATE DEGREES COMPLETED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF

DANIEL E. STUNTZ

1951 M.S.	Polyporaceae of Flathead Lake region of western Montana
Robert Lewis Gilbertson Department of Plant Pathology University of Arizona Tucson, AZ 85721	
1951 M.S., Forestry	An investigation of two species of fungi associated with Bark-Beetles on Pacific Silver Fir
John Hunt Pacific Northwest Regional Experiment Station, Forest Service Portland, OR (Died 1959 en route to assume Dr. Boyce's position at Yale)	
1957 M.S.	The ontogeny of the laticiferous system of <i>Lactarius aurantiacus</i> (Fr.) Fries
Harvard Lyman address unknown	
1957 Ph.D., Forestry	<i>Cenococcum graniforme</i> - its distribution, ecology, mycorrhiza formation, and inherent variation
James Martin Trappe Forestry Science Laboratory 3200 Jefferson Way Corvallis, OR 97331	
1962 M.S.	<i>Pholiota</i> of Washington State
Darryl William Grund Department of Biology Acadia University Wolfville, N.S. Canada	
1962 M.S.	A survey of the Tremellales of the Pacific Northwest
Hubert Clifford Klett Department of Biology Olympic College Bremerton, WA 98310 (Died 1976)	

- 1963 M.S. A survey of the pileate
Hydnaceae of western
Washington
Dennis Melvin Hall
Department of Biology
Northeastern Ill. University
Bryn Mawr at St. Louis
Chicago, IL 60625
- 1963 M.S. A survey of Boletaceae of
Washington
Theodore Charles Hoffman
Mason Lake, WA
(deceased)
- 1963 M.S. A survey of *Agaricus* in
Washington, Oregon, and
California
Bill Forgust Isaacs
Tewa Enterprises
Sante Fe, N.M. 87501
- 1964 Ph.D. North American Species of
Exidia
Hurbert Clifford Klett
Department of Biology
Olympic College
Bremerton, WA 98310
(Died 1976)
- 1964 M.S. A survey of the macrofungi
on serpentine and non-
serpentine soils in the
upper Teanaway River
Valley, Washington
John Lewis Maas
Fruit Laboratory
BARC-W
Beltsville, MD 20705
- 1965 Ph.D. A survey of *Russula*
occurring in Washington
State
Darryl William Grund
Department of Biology
Acadia University
Wolfville, N.S. Canada
- 1965 M.S. A taxonomic survey of
Peziza in western Washington
Phyllis Margaret Hicks
College Biological Supply
Bothell, WA

- 1965 M.S. A survey of *Amanita* in western Washington
Naoshi Nakamura
Okinawa
- 1967 M.S. A survey of genus *Guepiniopsis* with comparison of genera *Guepiniopsis* and *Dacrymyces*
Betty Ann Alder
Bremerton, WA 98310
- 1967 M.S. A survey of the genus *Dasyscyphus* and related genera in western Washington
John H. Haines, Ph.D.
New York State Museum
Albany, N.Y. 12234
- 1968 Ph.D. A survey of the pileate Hydnaceae of western Washington
Dennis Melvin Hall
Department of Biology
Northeastern Illinois University
Bryn Mawr at St. Louis
Chicago, IL 60625
- 1968 Ph.D. *Leptonia* and related genera of the west coast with a preliminary revision of the Rhodophylloid fungi
David Lee Largent
Department of Biology
Humboldt State University
Arcata, CA 95521
- 1968 Ph.D. *Ramaria* of western Washington
Currie Daniel Marr
Science-Biology Department
State University College
Oneonta, N.Y. 13820
- 1971 Non-thesis Masters "A study of *Histoplasma* in the Pacific Northwest"
R. L. Holman
Seattle, WA
- 1971 Non-thesis Masters A taxonomic survey of the coprophilous taxa of *Coprinus* (Agaricales) in western Washington
Fred Van De Bogart, Jr.
Seattle, WA 98133

- 1972 Ph.D. *Rhizopogon* of the north-
western United States
David Ramon Hosford
Department of Biological Sciences
Central Washington University
Ellensburg, WA 98926
- 1974 M.S. Algunos Hongos de El
Salvador Tremellales,
Thelephorales y Discomycetes
Gustavo A. Escobar
Apartado Postal #05-50
San Salvador, El Salvador
Central America
- 1975 Non-thesis Masters Studies on the Bird's Nest
Fungi of Washington State
Carol Sue Davis
Everett, WA
- 1975 Ph.D. The genus *Coprinus* in
Washington and adjacent
western states
Fred Van De Bogart
Seattle, WA 98133
- 1975 Ph.D. The Collybioid fungi of
western Washington
Joanne Helen Williams
(Lennox)
Issaquah, WA 98027
- 1978 Ph.D. Contribution towards a
monograph of neotropical
species of *Hymenochaete*
Gustavo A. Escobar
Apartado Postal #05-50
San Salvador, El Salvador
Central America
- 1979 Ph.D. (to be completed) "Selected Pleurotoid
genera of western Washing-
ton"
Susan D. Libonati
(Barnes)
Department of Botany
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

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