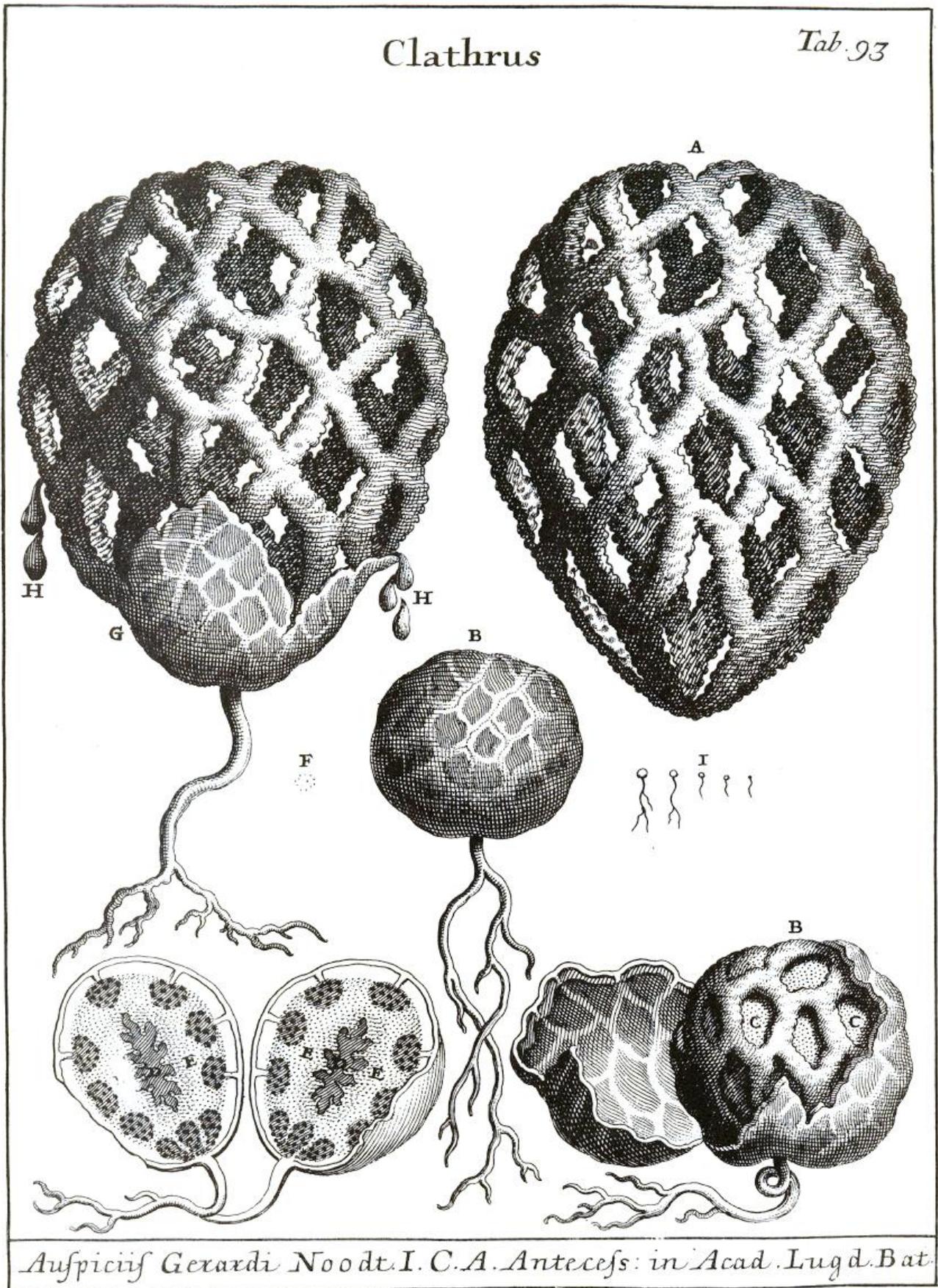


Clathrus, a Stinkhorn
from
Pier Antonio Micheli's *Nova plantarum genera*
published in 1729

There is an explanation after the plate



Pier Antonio Micheli (1679-1737) put much intelligent effort into the study of fungi. He observed them carefully and illustrated many species in great detail. The above plate is a good example of the visual record to be found in *Nova plantarum genera*.

Below is Micheli's text about the genus *Clathrus*, followed by an explanation in English, which aims make Micheli's thoughts clear rather than to follow the Latin literally. Square brackets enclose some explanatory comments of my own.

C L A T H R U S .

CLATHRUS est plantæ genus subrotundum, & quasi turbinatum A, clathri, Tab. 93.
aut retis instar fenestratum, ac marsupii more cavum, quod antequam e volva
emergat BB massam quamdam in sinu suo C fovet, quæ constat partim, ex puriore
glutine D, partim ex grisea subobscura materia E, veluti farina leviter madefacta,
ac valide subacta, seminibus minutissimis F infecta, quæ dum Clathrus extra
volvam G egreditur, & sese explicat, in olidissimum liquorem colliquescit, &
guttatim fluit H.

Liquor hic in aquam immixtus semina deponit, ut in Phallo tradidimus. Cor-
puscula, quæ ad litteram I sunt expressa, demonstrant plantulas juniores e seminibus
hujus generis recenter enatas, præsertim ultimum, quod semine vix est majus.

Clathrus, A, is sub-globose or somewhat like a top in shape. It is latticed or net-like but also hollow like a pouch. Initially within the integument, B, there is a mass, C, partly gelatinous, D [between the two Es in the lower left figure], and partly composed of a dark, greyish material, E, that resembles dampened, strongly kneaded flour and in which there are very minute seeds, F. When *Clathrus* comes out of the integument, G, and unfolds itself, this mass dissolves into an exceedingly smelly liquid which falls away in droplets, H.

When this liquid is stirred in water the seeds drop to the bottom of the container, as in *Phallus*. The letter I denotes young plantlets, the last hardly bigger than the seed from which it has sprung.

[On the right I've reproduced part of Micheli's plate. This shows an internal view of a vertically-sectioned, immature *Clathrus*. The blue arrow points to the letter D, hard to see because of the dark background it sits on, and the red arrow indicates one of the many lattice arms.]

