Coker’s Lactarius taxa - 100 years later

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Dr. William Chambers Coker described over 100 new species of fungi during his career at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Included in these were seven species and two forms in the genus *Lactarius* published by Coker in “Lactarias of North Carolina” in 1918. Coker’s seven *Lactarius* species have stood the test of time, six at the species level, now spread across three genera (*Lactarius*, *Lactifluus*, and *Multifurca*) and one at the variety level. As yet, his two forms have not been deemed suitable for taxonomic recognition. The *Lactarius sensu lato* collection of the University of North Carolina Herbarium (NCU) is the third largest in the southeastern United States, holding 456 preserved specimens representing 76 species. Of these specimens, 32 are type collections including types of Coker’s taxa. Of particular note, the holotype of *Lactarius furcatus* Coker [now *Multifurca furcata* (Coker) Buyck & V. Hofstetter] has been rediscovered. NCU’s *Lactarius* collection includes 48 Gertrude S. Burlingham collections from North Carolina and Vermont, 1907–1922, of which at least five are isotypes or topotypes of species of *Lactarius* she described.