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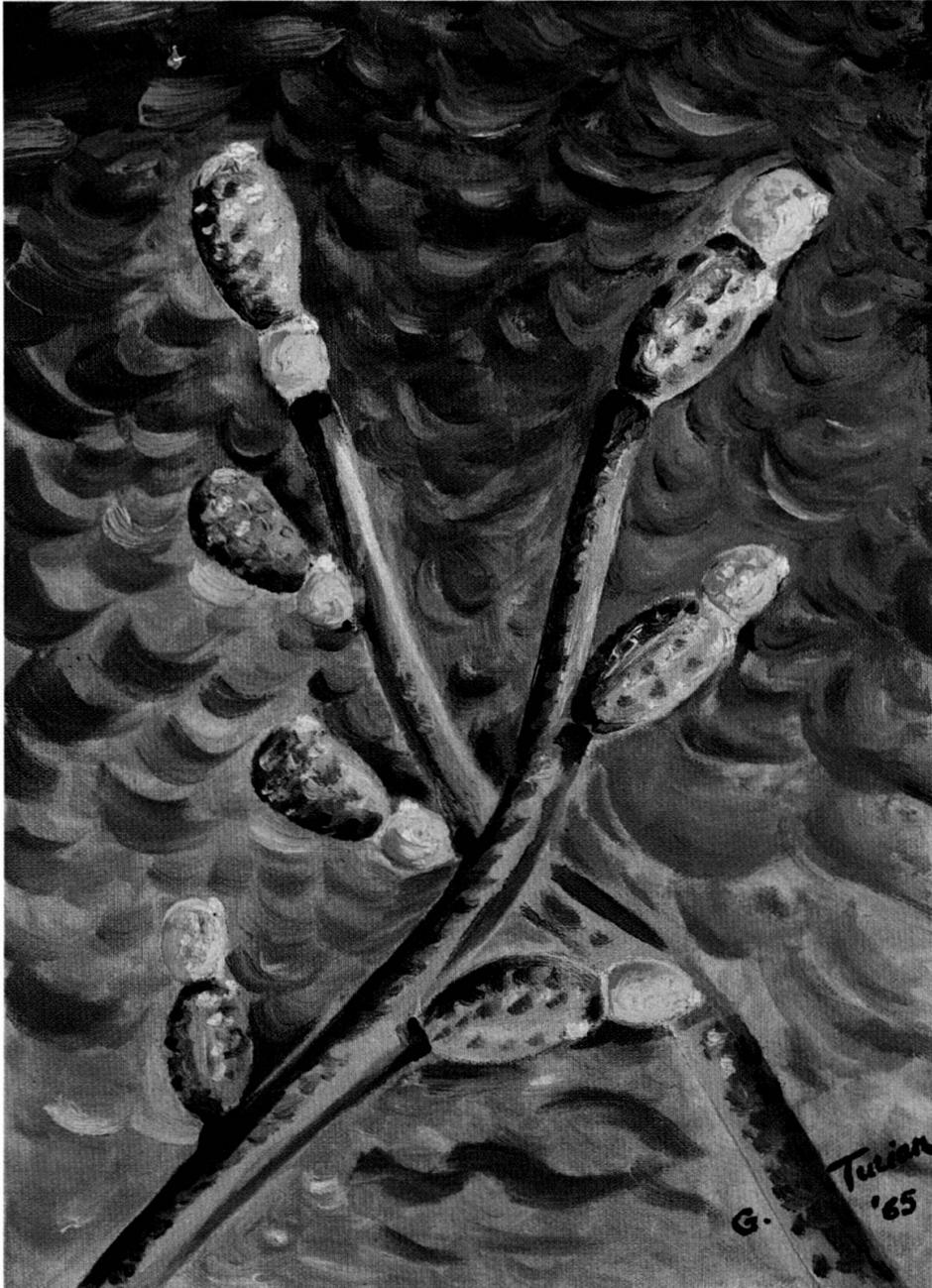
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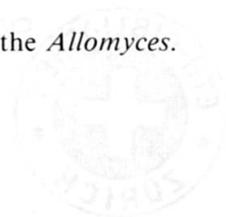
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DNA-positioned "sexual dipoles" (orange male gametangia) in the *Allomyces*.



POLARITY

FROM DIPOLES TO BIOPOLARIZATIONS

BY

Gilbert TURIAN *

PROLOGUE

Two decades ago, our sparkle to write “Différenciation fongique” (1969) was already a fascination for the polarized growth pattern of fungal hyphae. This decided us to follow them as our red tape to further focus our developmental interest on polarity alone, considered as unitarian principle pervading all natural processes, from inert to living matter.

Surprisingly, to our knowledge there was no book overviewing polarity in its broad span. This gap gave us the incentive to survey all possibly available data about polarity, from its physico-chemical fundamentals to its more advanced biopatterns. However, in this attempt, we were soon confronted with the multitude of processes involving polarity and, therefore, had to be more selective than comprehensive in our choice of the models, sequentially presented from the primeval dipoles.

Microbial and plant models of biopolarity have been the easiest to select and present because of our direct involvement in these fields. However, we must ask for indulgence for the animal models, not to mention unavoidable omissions in the physical and chemical aspects of polarity.

In achieving this multifaceted task, we gratefully acknowledge the encouragements of Dr. Jacques Deferne, redactor of the *Archives des Sciences*, the steady secretarial assistance of Ariane Fehr, the fruitful discussions with my collaborators and colleagues of the different fields, and ... the patience of my wife and children, Jacques and Sandrine, and of all my friends.

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