

Issue 16
August 2012



NIFG NEWS



Polyporus squamosus

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NIFG NEWS 2012

Hi Folks!

The bad weather continues! It seems to dominate this column each year. Very late spring, record rainfall, flooding, absence of sunshine. It will be interesting to see what effect all this has on the appearance of fungi this summer and autumn.

The season's foraging has got off to a slow start. The first outing of the season, at Glenarm on 6 May produced *Morchella esculenta*, the edible morel which Chris Stretch enjoyed (on toast!). Other finds were few but included St George's mushroom and a few mottlegills and brittlestems. The Bioblitz at Crawfordsburn on 19 May produced a very respectable total of over 50 species but almost all of these were brackets and ascomycetes. The larger fleshy fungi were scarce.

Our first 'proper' outing on 21 July to Gortin Glen was also a bit thin but the early larch boletes were out with a sprinkling of blusher and a few notables such as spring fieldcap, cinnamon webcap and the tiny holly parachute on holly leaves. Among the ascos was the bright purple

Nectriopsis violacea parasitic on dog-sick myxo on a stump. The problem with Gortin, though a very fine conifer forest, is the complete lack of broadleaf trees. Members did enjoy the animal exhibit, with several very tame fallow deer present.

On a more sombre note, the absence of Mary McNeice from the party was noticeable. We had heard that Mary was too ill to attend and she had been moved to Craigavon Hospital. I am sure I speak on behalf of all our members in sending our prayers and best wishes to Mary in her hospital bed with the hope of better things to come.

Hon. Editor

Roy Anderson

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Chairman's Report 2011

Dear Members..

2012 is here already! I cant believe this year has crept up on us so fast.. The BIG YEAR!! The year I had been planning for since 2009.. THE BMS YEAR!!!

In 2009 I thought it would be a good idea to invite the BMS to NI to carry out an autumn foray, approx 10yrs since the last one. But as they had already planned the forays for that and the following year, 2012 was our next available slot. Two yrs have slipped by without a whisper and now its all hands to deck!

I feel that this year will be dominated with planning, mapping, co-ordinating members, and pulling all the ideas together.

And this is on top of our usual foray timetable! So I thank the members in advance, for any help provided.

At the end of June, I attended the biennial

BMS Group Leaders Meeting, this year held in Hereford. This was a somewhat entertaining event, with Stuart Skeates from the Hampshire Group, and who also helps run the BMS website, with great enthusiasm entertaining us with group name games and with all the 40+ members making a living map with our own bodies representing where our group was in the UK.. Was a great display of just how widespread the interest in mycology is.

The weekend was jam packed with information, talks of projects being carried out, databases, recording, and legal issues. Along with a few heated debates!. Came back inspired to do more.. Don't know what that will be yet!! But I do think the NIFG should be involved with more research projects so this is something we can look into in the future.

Fungi do seem to be very overlooked by councils and environmental bodies in N.I., and although some do see the importance, we do need to make people more aware of the importance and protection

that our fungi need. Our records are of no use if they sit in a vault, or in a file locked away. All your efforts in finding and identifying species, needs to be seen and rewarded. This is something we can work on in the future.

So I look forward to another fruitful year, and with this weather if it continues like it is.. I think we will have a lot of finds to record.

Debbie

NIFG Chairperson

Members Photos 2011



Foray and other finds 2011/12

Foray Records

Rash Estate, Omagh Co Tyrone, 28.v.2011

Ascomycetes

Calloria neglecta	Urtica
Diatrype disciformis	beech
Eutypa maura	sycamore
Eutypa spinosa	beech
Glyphium elata	?hazel
Hymenoscyphus repandus	willow herb
Hypoxylon petriniae	ash
Kretschmaria deusta	beech
Lachnum bicolor	fallen oak twig
Lachnum carneolum var. longisporum	dead grass
Lachnum fuscescens var. fagicola	beech cupule
Lachnum virgineum	beech cupule
Laetinaevia carneoflavida	Urtica
Leptosphaeria acuta	Urtica
Mollisia melaleuca	hazel
Nemania serpens	hazel branch
Pyrenopeziza urticicola	Urtica
Scutellinia scutellata	ash, oak
Xylaria carpophila	beech cupule
Xylaria hypoxylon	hazel
Xylaria longipes	sycamore

Basidiomycetes

Amanita rubescens	beech
Calyptella capula	Urtica
Coprinopsis stercorea	rabbit dung
Coprinus micaceus	willow
Coprinus plicatilis	pathside
Exidia glandulosa	oak branch
Exidia thuretiana	beech
Gymnopus ocior	beech
Marasmius rotula	litter
Mycena abramsii	fallen beech
Mycena acicula	hazel
Mycena adonis	moss/grass
Mycena erubescens	dead wood
Mycena galericulata	beech wood
Mycena pura	beech
Mycena rosea	beech wood.
Mycena sanguinolenta	mossy stump
Pluteus cervinus	beech log
Pluteus salicinus	
Polyporus leptocephalus	hazel
Psathyrella spadiceogrisea	
Russula nigricans	beech
Tremella mesenterica	beech

Brackets

Bjerkandera adusta	beech
Ganoderma australe	beech
Hymenochaete rubiginosum	oak
Peniophora lycii	ash
Polyporus varius	willow
Skeletocutis nivea	hazel
Stereum hirsutum	beech
Stereum rugosum	hazel
Trametes gibbosa	?stump
Trametes versicolor	beech

Myxomycetes

Lycogala epidendrum	hazel
Lycogala terrestre	beech
Fuligo septica	beech log

Notable finds:

Gymnopus (= Collybia) ocior. This is a first record for Ireland, distinguished from similar *Gymnopus (-Collybia)*



dryophila [russet toughshank] by its much earlier appearance, darker cap and yellowish gills (Roy Anderson).

Pyrenopeziza urticicola. A tiny cup fungus found on nettles. New to Ireland (Chris Stretch).

Roe valley Country Park, Co. Derry, 16.vii.2011

Ascomycetes

Leotia lubrica	hazel
Orbilbia delicatula	pine
Scutellinia scutellata	ash, oak
Xylaria hypoxylon	hazel
Xylaria longipes	sycamore

Basidiomycetes

Amanita muscaria	birch
Amanita rubescens	beech
Boletus edulis	oak
Cantharellus cibarius	beech
Coprinus micaceus	hazel
Dacrymyces stillatus	spruce
Inocybe geophylla	hazel/

beech/spruce

Russula integra spruce

Brackets

Bjerkandera adusta	beech
Clavulina cinerea	moss/willow
Ganoderma australe	beech
Perenniporia fraxinea	ash
Polyporus squamosus	ash
Stereum hirsutum	oak
Stereum rugosum	hazel
Trametes versicolor	beech

Myxomycetes

Lycogala epidendrum	beech
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Notable finds:

Perenniporia fraxinea. A bracket usually found on ash but which is very southern in Britain. Recorded also from a hollow sycamore in a hotel carpark in Dublin (see photo below) and from lime at Ballintemple in Cork City. New to N. Ireland..

Ballinrees Reservoir, Co Derry, 12.viii.2011

Basidiomycetes

Bolbitius titubans var. titubans	
Clavulina coralloides	
Collybia confluens	
Collybia peronata	
Hygrocybe cantharellus	grass
Inocybe geophylla var. geophylla	
Lactarius deterrimus	spruce
Lycoperdon perlatum	spruce
Marasmius rotula	
Mycena acicula	
Mycena aciculata	pine twigs
Mycena pura	
Mycena rosea	
Panaeolus fimicola	grass
Polyporus varius	willow
Russula nauseosa	spruce
Russula ochroleuca	pin
Russula queletii	spruce
Tremella mesenterica	gorse

Myxomycetes

Fuligo septica

Downhill Forest, Co Derry, 6.viii.2011

Basidiomycetes

Agaricus arvensis

Clavaria acuta	Scots pine
Collybia confluens	
Collybia peronata	
Hirneola auricula-judae	sycamore
Marasmius rotula	
Otidea alutacea	wood chip
Peziza arvernensis	wood chip
Peziza varia	wood chip
Pluteus aurantiorugosus	elm log
Pluteus cervinus	
Polyporus ciliatus	beech
Polyporus squamosus	horse chestnut
Russula caerulea	pine
Russula chloroides	Sitka spruce
Russula sardonia	Scots pine
Scutellinia scutellata	horse chestnut
Stereum hirsutum	beech
Strobilurus tenacellus	buried pine cone
Tremella mesenterica	
Trichaptum abietinum	Scots pine
Tricholoma portentosum	pine
Myxomycetes	
Fuligo septica	
Lycogala terrestris	



Notable finds:

Mycena aciculata. A small *Mycena* with hairy cap on pine twigs. New to Ireland.

Polyporus ciliatus. A small polypore on beech wood new to Ireland.

Gosford Forest Park, Co Armagh 20.viii.2011

Ascomycetes

Hymenoscyphus fagineus	beech
Hypoxylon multifforme	birch
Lachnum virgineum	beech
Leotia lubrica	beech litter

Basidiomycetes

Xerocomus chrysenteron	beech
Boletus erythropus	oak
Cantharellus cibarius	beech
Collybia confluens	

Collybia peronata	
Coprinus disseminatus	stump
Entoloma conferendum	grass
Hirneola auricula-judae	
Hypholoma fasciculare	
Lacrymaria lacrymabunda	grass
Lactarius blennius	beech
Lactarius quietus	oak
Lactarius subdulcis	beech
Melanoleuca polioleuca	grass
Mycena haematopus	
Mycena roseum	
Oudemansiella mucida	beech
Pluteus luctuosus	
Russula curtipes	beech
Russula fellea	beech
Russula nigricans	beech
Stropharia semiglobata	dung
Brackets	
Piptoporus betulinus	birch
Pseudohydnum gelatinosum	spruce
Polyporus squamosus	horse chestnut
Postia stiptica	
Stereum hirsutum	
Myxomycetes	
Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa	
Diderma floriforme	
Stemonitis fusca	
Tubulifera arachnoide	

Loughermore, Co Derry, 27.viii.2011

Ascomycetes

Cordyceps ophioglossoides	
on <i>Elaphomyces muricatus</i>	
Elaphomyces muricatus	beech
Otidea alutacea	
Rhytisma acerinum	sycamore

Basidiomycetes

Amanita fulva	beech
Amanita rubescens	birch
Boletus erythropus	beech
Collybia confluens	
Collybia peronata	
Cortinarius cinnamomeus	pine/birch
Oudemansiella mucida	beech
Hygrocybe conica	grass
Hypoxylon multifforme	birch
Kuehneromyces mutabilis	stump
Laccaria amethystina	beech
Laccaria laccata	
Lactarius torminosus	birch
Leccinum scabrum	birch
Russula ochroleuca	beech
Russula betularum	birch
Suillus granulatus	pine
Suillus grevillei	larch
Suillus variegatus	pine
Tricholoma ustale	beech

Tricholomopsis rutilans	spruce
Xerocomus chrysenteron	beech
Brackets	
Piptoporus betulinus	birch
Postia caesia	spruce

Myxomycetes

Stemonitis fusca	
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Tollymore, Co Down, 11.ix.2011

Ascomycetes

Aleuria aurantia	soil
Ascocoryne sarcoides	beech
Hypoxylon fragiforme	beech
Mollisia cinerea	bark
Rhytisma acerinum	sycamore
Scutellinia scutellata	
Xylaria carpophila	beechmast
Xylaria hypoxylon	

Basidiomycetes

Agaricus campestris	
Amanita citrina	beech
Amanita muscarius	spruce
Amanita phalloides	mixed
Amanita porphyria	(with large bulbous base)
Amanita rubescens	
Amanita virosa	
Armillaria mellea	
Bolbitius vitellinus	
Boletus edulis	
Clitocybe subspadicea	
Cantharellus cibarius	
Calocera cornea	
Calocera viscosa	
Clavulina coralloides	spruce
Clavulina cinerea	spruce
Clavulinopsis helvola	
Clitopilus prunulus	oak
Coprinus lagopus	
Coprinus micaceus	
Coprinus plicatilis	
Cortinaria stillitatus	
Crepidotus variabilis	birch
Hydnum repandum	
Hygrocybe pratense	grass
Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca	
Hypholoma fasciculare	beech
Inocybe geophylla	mixed
Inocybe geophylla lilacina	
Laccaria amethystina	beech
Laccaria fraterna	eucalyptus
Laccaria laccata	beech
Lactarius blennius	beech
Lactarius deterrimus	spruce
Lactaria quietus	oak
Lactarius tabidus	spruce
Laetiporus sulphureus	stump
Leccinum scabrum	birch

Leotia lubrica	beech
Lycoperdon perlatum	mixed
Lycoperdon pyriforme	spruce
Macrolepiota rhacodes	spruce
Marasmius quercophilis	
Marasmius rotula	
Mutinus caninus	
Phallus impudicus	
Mycena aetitis	leaf litter
Mycena archangeliana	fallen wd
Mycena galericulata	fallen wd
Mycena galopus	leaf litter
Mycena polygramma	mixed
Mycena pura	beech
Mycena vitalis	leaf litter
Mycena pelianthina	
Oudemansiella mucida	beech
Paxillus involutus	
Pholiota squarrosa	
Pleurotus cervinus	
Psilocybe semilanceata	grassland
Rickenella fibula	moss
Russula claroflava	birch
Russula cyanoxantha	beech
Russula delica	mixed
Russula grisea	mixed
Russula nigricans	mixed
Russula nobilis	beech
Russula ochroleuca	mixed
Scleroderma areolatum	
Strobilarus tenacellus	
Suillus grevillei	larch
Tricholomopsis rutilans	
Xerocomus chrysenteron	birch

Brackets

Bjerkandra adusta	
Chondrostereum purpureum	
Fomes fomentarius(??)	sycamore
Ganoderma australe	beech
Trametes versicolor	

Myxos

Mucilago crustacea	
Tubifera ferruginosa	

Notable species:



Amanita porphyria. Rare in Ireland, usually under beech or oak.
Clitocybe subspadicea. New for Ireland.



Scarce, often under beech, southern half of Britain.

The record of Fomes on sycamore needs to be checked as this species has not recently been verified for Ireland though common in Britain.

Springhill, Co Derry 24.ix.2011

Ascomycetes

Aleuria aurantia	soil/grass
Helvella crispa	soil/grass
Helvella lacunosa	beech
Hymenoscyphus caudatus	horsechestnut

leaf stalk

Leotia lubrica	soil/grass
Xylaria hypoxylon	fallen branch

Basidiomycetes

Agaricus xanthodermus	sycamore
Cantharellus cibarius	beech
Chroogomphus rutilus	Scots pine
Clavulinopsis fusiformis	soil/grass
Clavulinopsis helvola	soil/grass
Clitocybe fragrans	soil/grass
Collybia butyracea	soil/leaves
Collybia confluens	

Coprinellus micaceus	stump
Crepidotus cesatii	twig
Crepidotus mollis	stump
Cyathus striatus	woodchip

Cystoderma amianthinum	soil/grass
Entoloma porphyrophaeum	soil/grass
Entoloma rhodopolium	beech
Exidia thuretiana	fallen branch
Gastrum triplex	hazel
Grifola frondosa	oak
Hirneola auricula-judae	sycamore
Hygrocybe pratensis	soil/grass
Hygrocybe psittacina	grass
Hygrocybe insipida	soil/grass

Hygrocybe virginea	soil/grass
Inocybe geophylla lilacina	
Laccaria amethystina	beech
Laccaria bicolor	soil/grass
Laccaria laccata	
Lactarius blennius	beech
Lactarius deliciosus	pine
Lactarius pyrogalus	hazel
Lactarius subdulcis	beech
Lactarius torminosus	birch
Lepiota cristata	
Lycoperdon pyriforme	
Lyophyllum connatum	beech
Marasmius rotula	twig
Meripilus giganteus	beech
Mycena galericulata	stump
Mycena rosea	
Phaeolepiota aurea	
Pluteus podospileus	dead wood
Psathyrella candolleana	
Psathyrella piluliformis	
Rickenella fibula	
Russula chloroides	
Russula fellea	beech
Russula nigricans	beech
Russula xerampelina	Scots pine
Suillus granulatus	Scots pine
Trametes gibbosa	
Tricholoma sulphureum	
Lacrymaria lacrymabunda	
Xerocomus chrysenteron	beech
Xerula radicata	

Notable species:

Cyathus striatus. Probably not that rare on limestone but very uncommon in N. Ireland—here on wood chip scattered in a play area.



Rosemount, Co Down 1.x.2011

Ascomycetes

Hymenoscyphus caudatus	Epilobium
Hymenoscyphus fagineus	beech cup.
Xylaria carpophila	beech cup.

Basidiomycetes

Agaricus arvensis	
Amanita rubescens	beech
Armillaria mellea	
Hirneola auricula-judae	

Fungi Picture Quiz



Can you identify these 10 fungi?
Answers on page 14



Bolbitius vitellinus	lawn
Boletus badius	
Boletus erythropus	beech
Clavulinopsis fusiformis	lawn
Clitocybe nebularis	
Clitocybe odora	
Clitopilus prunulus	beech
Collybia butyracea	soil/leaves
Collybia confluens	
Collybia peronata	
Coprinus micaceus	beech
Cystoderma amianthinum	soil/grass
Entoloma asprellum	lawn
E. conferendum	lawn
E. corvinum	lawn
E. incarnatofuscescens	lawn
E. sericeum	lawn
Hygrocybe acutoconica	lawn
H. calyptriformis	lawn
H. cerea	lawn
H. chlorophana	lawn
H. coccinea	lawn
H. flavipes	lawn
H. glutinipes	lawn
H. intermedia	lawn
H. irrigata	lawn
H. pratensis	lawn
H. psittacina	lawn
H. virginea	lawn
Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca	
Laccaria amethystina	beech
Laccaria fraterna	eucalyptus
L. laccata	beech/oak
Lacrymaria lacrymans	grass
Lactarius blennius	beech
L. deliciosus	Scots pine
L. quietus	oak
Lactarius subdulcis	beech
Lepista flaccida	
Lycoperdon perlatum	oak
Mycena pura	oak/beech
Macrolepiota rhacodes	
Mutinus caninus	
Mycena galericulata	
Mycena rosea	
Phallus impudicus	
Psathyrella candolleana	
Russula betularum	birch
R. cyanoxantha	beech
R. fellea	beech
R. krombholzii	oak
R. nigricans	beech
R. nobilis	beech
Russula ochroleuca	
Stropharia semiglobata	
Xerocomus chrystenteron	beech
Brackets	
Bjerkandera adusta	beech
Merpilus giganteus	beech

Stereum gausapatum oak

Notable species:

Entoloma incarnatofuscescens. First record for N. Ireland. Very scattered in Britain—one record for Ireland, Co.



Wicklow. An appalling day weather-wise—incessant torrential rain.

Residential Ballycastle, Co Antrim, 22-23.x.2011

1. Murlough Bay

Ascomycetes

Cheilymenia coprinaria	dung
Geoglossum cookeanum	rough grass
Geoglossum fallax	rough grass
Nemania serpens	sycamore
Scutellinia hyperborea	grass by sea
Scutellinia scutellata	sycamore
Scutellinia superba	grass by sea
Trichoglossum hirsutum	grass by sea
Xylaria hypoxylon	

Basidiomycetes

Bolbitius titubans	
Bovista nigrescens	
Clavulinopsis corniculata	rough grass
Clavulinopsis helvola	rough grass
Clavulinopsis luteoalba	rough grass
Entoloma conferendum	rough grass
Hygrocybe ceracea	rough grass
Hygrocybe insipida	rough grass
Hygrocybe laeta	rough grass
Hygrocybe laeta var. flava	rough grass
Hygrocybe pratensis	rough grass
Hygrocybe punicea	rough grass
Hygrocybe russocoriacea	rough grass
Hygrocybe virginea	rough grass
Mycena disseminatus	ash log
Mycena filopes	
Psathyrella conopilus	
Pseudoclitocybe cyathiformis	haw
Stropharia caerulea	rough grass

2. Ballycastle Forest

Ascomycetes

Ascocoryne sarcoides	
Leotia lubrica	
Pachyella babingtonii	sat. wood
Scutellinia cejpaii	clay soil

Basidiomycetes

Dacrymyces stillatus	
Inocybe cinnamomata	
Inocybe flocculosa	
Inocybe rimosa	
Lycoperdon perlatum	
Lycoperdon umbrinum	spruce
Pseudohydnum gelatinosum	spruce
Russula ochroleuca	spruce
Tricholoma ustale	

Brackets

Gloeophyllum sepiarium	spruce
Postia caesia	spruce
Postia stiptica	spruce
Stereum sanguinolentum	spruce

3. Craigagh Wood

Ascomycetes

Annulohypoxylon cohaerens	beech
Diaporthe leiphaemia	oak
Diatrype disciformis	beech
Diatrype stigma	beech
Hypoxylon fragiforme	beech
Leotia lubrica	beech
Neobulgaria pura	beech

Basidiomycetes

Mycena pura	beech
Oudemansiella mucida	beech
Russula cyanoxantha	beech

Brackets

Peniophora cinerea	ash
Stereum hirsutum	oak
Trametes hirsute	oak
Trametes versicolor	beech

Notable finds:

Scutellinia hyperborea. Second record for the British Isles. This time on mossy soil on the upper shore with S.



superba. Not known in Britain. Hygrocybe laeta var. flava. A rarity among waxcaps but there are several records for N. Ireland.



Macrotyphula juncea	alder
Oxyporus populinus	ash
Stereum hirsutum	beech
Stereum rugosum	hazel
Trametes versicolor	beech

C. micaceus	hawthorn
Cystoderma amianthinum	grass
Dacrymyces capitatus	hawthorn
D. stillatus	fence posts
Entoloma conferendum	grass

Notable finds:

Neobarya xylariicola. New to the British Isles and parasitic upon Xylaria spp.

Xylaria sp. An unidentified species (note the single, pointed apex) in a



**Lissan House,
Co Tyrone 5.xi.2011**

Ascomycetes

Biscogniauxia nummularia	beech
Bisporella citrina	beech
Bisporella sulfurina	sycamore
Hymenoscyphus fagineus	beech mast
Hymenoscyphus phyllophilus	beech leaf
Leotia lubrica	beech
Nectria punicea var. ilicis	holly
Neobarya xylariicola	Xylaria sp.
Pezizella leucostigma	beech
Xylaria hypoxylon	ash
Xylaria longipes	sycamore
Xylaria sp.	goat willow

Basidiomycetes

Bolbitius titubans	
Calyptella capula	nettle stem
Clavulina coralloides	soil
Crepidotus luteolus	nettle stem
Clitocybe fragrans	grass
Clitocybe nebularis	beech
Dacrymyces stillatus	spruce
Hygrocybe laeta	

Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca	wood chip
Inocybe geophylla	beech
Lactarius blennius	beech
Lepista inversa	wood chip
Lycoperdon pyriforme	spruce
Macrotyphula fistulosa	alder
Marasmiellus ramealis	nettle
Marasmius hudsonii	holly
Marasmius setosus	beech leaf
Mycena galericulata	branch
Mycena pura	
Pseudoclitocybe cyathiformis	
Stropharia aurantiaca	wood chip
Tricholoma ustale	beech
Tubaria furfuracea	yew
Typhula phacorrhiza	
Xerocomus chrysenteron	

Brackets

Gloeophyllum sepiarium	plank on bridge
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rather poorly known group; growing on willow.

**Slievenacloy,
Co Antrim 12.xi.2011**

Ascosmycetes

Cheilymenia coprinaria	cattle dung
C. granulata	cattle dung
C. stercorea	cattle dung
Cordyceps militaris	Lep. larva
Geoglossum fallax	grass/moss
Iodophanus carneus	cattle dung
Mollisia cinerea	hawthorn
Xylaria hypoxylon	hawthorn

Basidiomycetes:

Bovista nigrescens	blowing about
Clavulinopsis corniculata	grass
C. fusiformis	grass
Clitocybe nebularis	hawthorn
Clitocybe fragrans	
Collybia confluens	hawthorn
Coprinus domesticus	hawthorn

Hygrocybe cantharellus	grass
H. coccinea	grass
H. conica	grass
H. insipida	grass
H. pratensis	grass
H. punicea	grass
H. splendidissima	grass
H. virginea	grass
Lepista nuda	hawthorn
Mycena galericulata	hawthorn
M. pura	hawthorn
Panaeolus papilionaceus	cattle dung
P. semiovatus	cattle dung
Rickenella swartzii	
Stropharia semiglobata	cattle dung
Tremella mesenterica	hawthorn

Brackets

Datronia mollis	alder
Inonotus radiatus	alder
Peniophora limitata	ash
Trametes versicolor	hawthorn



Fungal Miscellany

The 'Viagra' transforming local economies in India

By Craig Jeffrey (BBC) Indian Himalayas

A rare fungus some are calling Indian Viagra is starting to transform local economies in the Himalayas. But some of those harvesting it are now having to arm themselves to protect



what has become a valuable cash crop.

There is a fungus that attacks caterpillars in the Indian Himalayas. People in north India call it kira jari. In neighbouring Tibet it is known as yar-sagumba. The fungus mummifies its prey and then grows out of the top of the dead caterpillar's head. It appears above ground just as the snow melts in May or June.

In China, kira jari is used as an aphrodisiac. Athletes have used it as a performance-enhancing drug. For villagers in the Indian Himalayas it is a source of income. During the last five years they have begun to collect the caterpillar fungus and sell it to local traders. These middlemen, in turn, sell the fungi to businesspeople in Delhi and it travels on from there to Nepal and China. When sold in the village, a single fungus fetches 150 Indian rupees (about £2 or \$3) - more than the daily wage of a manual labourer.

Some people are able to collect 40 in a single day. So the search for caterpillar fungus has come to resemble a type of Himalayan gold rush. I have spent the past few months in the Indian Himalayas doing research on youth and social change. I lived in the village of Bemni, located at about 10,000 feet (3,000m) near the Indian border with Tibet.

[I think I have heard this one before!]

Unlocking the genetic secrets of the UK's fungi

By Rebecca Morelle Science reporter, BBC News

Dr Martyn Ainsworth, heads to Deer Park Farm in Devon, on the hunt for some of the UK's rarest - and strangest - species of fungus

Fungi might be one of the world's most diverse kingdoms of life, but we



know surprisingly little about them. Now this is about to change with scientists creating the first genetic library of the UK's fungi.

Providing a splash of colour before winter hits, the fungi at Deer Park Farm in Devon are putting on a spectacular display.

They come in every variety: from red, fairytale-like toadstools to slimy, alien tentacles poking out through the soil. These steep fields contain some of the UK's rarest varieties of a family of fungi known as waxcaps, and they have attracted the attention of scientists from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in London.

The researchers are collecting samples of DNA to take back to the lab for analysis. They are starting to create a genetic database of the UK's fungi, beginning with the waxcaps.

Dr Martyn Ainsworth, a senior researcher in fungal conservation from Kew, says: "It is a huge kingdom, and relatively under-explored and understudied. "I think we know so little about them because, scientifically, they are hard to work on.

"We can grow a certain number in the lab, but there is a whole host of fungi that we would recognise as mush-

rooms and toadstools in our woodlands, and some of the most commercially important ones such as ceps, porcini and chanterelles, which we cannot grow in the lab.

"This has held back a lot of research."



There is a lot of hidden diversity that DNA sequencing is allowing us to reveal" Dr Bryn Dentinger Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew.

But, fungi, which fall between plants and animals on the tree of life, are the hidden helpers of our environment: they recycle waste and dead matter, and provide plants with water and nutrients.

"They are absolutely fundamental to ecosystems. Fungi are really the behind-the-scenes team that are doing all the work," adds Dr Ainsworth.

One basic question that the team is trying to answer with the genetic library is just how many species of fungi there are.

Currently, the UK is thought to contain anywhere between 12,000 to 20,000 species, but Dr Bryn Dentinger, a senior mycologist from RBG Kew, is trying to find the unique gene sequences that will help conservationists get a handle on this number.

He says: "Because of their cryptic nature, fungi are very difficult to identify by morphology alone.

"But now, with genetic techniques, we finally have the tools here we can accurately diagnose the number of species we have at a much faster rate than before."

Early results already suggest that some waxcaps that were currently

Fungal Miscellany (contd.)

considered to be single species, could actually be two or more distinct species.



The steep fields of Deer Park Farm have enabled fungi to thrive

"There is a lot of hidden diversity that DNA sequencing is allowing us to reveal," Dr Dentinger added.

But despite their apparent abundance, scientists are still concerned about the future of some species of fungus.

Habitat destruction and nitrogen pollution from fertilisers are causing serious declines, and one group that has been particularly affected is the waxcaps.

In fact, their sheer presence is now used as an indicator to show that a grassland habitat is healthy, and a glut of waxcaps can lead to an area being given a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) conservation designation.

Future of fungi

Audrey Compton and John Whetman, who own Deer Park Farm, say that when they bought their farm 10 years ago, it already had some fields packed full of fungi, which they have simply left alone to allow the mushrooms to thrive.

Mrs Compton explains: "We have some really ancient grasslands here; they haven't been ploughed up, they are too steep for a tractor, they haven't been fertilised, haven't had pesticides, and therefore, they are more or less as nature intended.

"And as long as we graze them the right amount, we're going to have beautiful summer flowers and wonderful autumn fungi." Researchers do not know how many species of fungi there are in the world



The researchers from Kew say that delving into the DNA of fungal species will help to conserve them - because if we are unsure of how many species there are, how can we keep track of the ones we are losing?

Dr Ainsworth explains: "It is answering these basic first questions: how many species we have got and then looking to see what are their ecological requirements.

"And then when you know those things, then you can begin to manage habitats in a conservation-minded kind of way."

While the scientists are beginning their sequencing project with waxcaps, which has been funded by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Scottish Natural Heritage, they are keen to broaden it out to other fungi and say the same techniques could be applied to create a worldwide genetic library of this Kingdom.

This, admits Dr Dentinger, could take decades - although he says it would be worth the effort.

"The total diversity of mushrooms is a difficult number to estimate - 700,000 to over 5 million - and modern molecular data is supporting the higher numbers of fungi," he explained.

"Clearly there is a lot out there - and the only way we can do this is anybody's lifetime is to use DNA sequencing.

"It is a daunting task, but it's also incredibly exciting. It is an exciting time to be a mycologist."

'Comeback' of rare ancient fungus in Norfolk

A fossil found at Shropham shows the species was present



100,000 years ago

A rare tree fungus which existed in Norfolk thousands of years ago may be making a comeback, a wildlife group has said.

The Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS) wants sightings of the Hoof Fungus, which produces a grey hoof-shaped form on birch trees.

NBIS said it would help them understand how wildlife was responding to changes in climate and land use.

A fossil found at Shropham shows the species was present 100,000 years ago.

It has recently been found at several sites in Norfolk.

The fungus, *Fomes Fomentarius*, produces a perennial grey bracket shape up to 7" (20cm) across and about 5" (15cm) deep on the trees.

Recorder for fungi

The NBIS fungus survey, which was designed with help from the Norfolk county recorder for fungi, Tony Leech, ends in November.

It is also asking for sightings of Fly Agaric, a poisonous fungus with a red cap covered with white spots.

It is widespread on heath and woodland, frequently near birch, from September to November.

The NBIS is also interested in Red-lead Roundhead, a small distinctive orange fungus often found on woodchips in garden flowerbeds from September to November. This alien spe-

Fungal Miscellany (Contd)

A rare fungus that smells like rotting flesh has been discovered in Northamptonshire.

The fungi has been growing in the pot of a bamboo plant near Oundle for the past 2 weeks.



The Wildlife Trust says the Red Cage Fungus, also known as the Lattice Stinkhorn, is a first for the county. Up until now, it has only been recorded in the West Country and Channel Islands, and is regarded as an alien species in the UK. Steve Flack from Lilford spotted a hard white sphere in the plant pot. Over two weeks, he watched the sphere grow to the size of a golf ball and decided to call the Wildlife Trust. Experts there identified the red fungi as a rare species which smells like rotting flesh. Steve said: "I didn't look at it for about three or four days so I was very surprised to discover it had turned red and very smelly...I have never seen anything remotely like this." According to the Association of British Fungus Groups, there are only 38 records of the Red Cage fungus in the whole country. Brian Eversham the Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough, said: "It is a real find.

"I'm delighted to see this. It's a native of Southern Europe, and is thought to have been spreading northwards in the last few decades."

The Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre, which records unusual finds in the county, has confirmed that the fungi is a first for them.

Rare fungus with medical benefits found in Norfolk forest

Rare fungi with potential medical benefits have been rediscovered on pony dung on heathland in a Norfolk forest.

The nail fungus, called *Poronia punctata*,



had not been recorded in the county since 1944.

Medical researchers are interested in its natural antibiotics used to compete with other fungi and bacteria. Previously, it was only known to exist in the New Forest and researchers are baffled by the discovery made during a routine inspection in Thetford Forest.

Forestry Commission ecologists say they are "delighted" because its presence also shows heathland restoration and grazing by ponies can create the perfect conditions for the rare fungus.

Jonathan Spencer, head of environment and planning, said he was "very excited" by the discovery.

"It has started to appear in a tiny number of other places where ponies have been used to restore heathland.

"The fungus is drawing serious attention from the world of medicinal research.

"The peculiar way it competes with other bacteria and fungi in the dung, using antibiotics, is new to science

and only just beginning to be explored.

"Its use and value could be huge. Fungi have so much to offer in this way as they are key parts of our biodiversity that could hold huge potential for services yet to be realised."

The fungus, named after its distinctive appearance, similar to a flat-headed nail, grows only on dry dung from ponies that have fed on healthy grassland that has not been agriculturally improved.

The ponies must also be organically fed and treated only by benign veterinary products.

The site, near Hockwold in Norfolk, has been restored to heathland as part of a major plan to link up and expand existing Breckland heaths.

A mushroom by any other name would smell as sweet: Dracula orchids

~~Some fungi are known to mimic flowers to dupe pollinators to carry their spores but in the cloud forests of Central America there is an orchid genus called *Dracula* which has turned the tables and mimicked fungi.~~

Over 100 species have flowers that look and smell like fleshy fungi to attract flies. The fly lands on the orchid and pollen is wiped off on to its body which is then carried away to the next *Dracula* 'flower' to be pollinated!



FORAY PROGRAMME 2012

Foray layout:

A days foraying begins, for those wanting a full day, at 11am at the designated meeting point. Returning to the car park for lunch between 12.30 & 1pm. Then foraying again from 1 – 4pm. You are welcome to join at either of these starting times.

1. We recommend highly that you WEAR SUITABLE OUTDOOR CLOTHING.. that is sensible footwear (high heels or sandals are not recommended). Trainers, wellies or waterproof walking boots are a must for some sites. Please bring a raincoat and/or waterproof bottoms. It can suddenly start raining and you'll regret not having some form of waterproofs with you. If you don't need them at least you've come prepared.

2. Some sites may be hilly! Please do check the sites before you plan to come along. We have tried to give you as much detail regarding the site ie grid ref and O.S. map no's so you can find them and check the terrain on your maps. If you need more advice please contact us. It can be off putting if you arrive to find a mountain site and you are unable to cope physically with it.

3. If you are planning on spending the whole day with the group do bring a packed lunch as some venues are 'out of the way' and may not have shops nearby.

4. If you are wishing to collect a few specimens to take home and identify yourself bring a collection container of basket (mushroom boxes from your local green grocers are good! And you are recycling which is good for the environment too!!!). Craft tubs or small plastic tool boxes from

your local hardware shop are good as they have handles as well and are relatively cheap.

5. A small guide book is also recommended. These can be obtained from any local bookstore. The Collins Field Guides are very good but will only have the very commonly found species in them. This is good for beginners and helps you establish which ones you may come across on a regular basis. Once you feel more confident you can invest in more advanced books. Apart from those main points the day is pretty relaxed. Join in, make friends and have fun and learn a bit about our environment and habitats while your there.

[PLEASE NOTE - Space is limited and it has not been possible to reproduce all site maps in the Newsletter— please consult the maps, if needed, at www.nifg.org.uk]

21st July 2012 Gortin Glen Forest Park OS map No. 13 H485822

From Belfast. On M1 then A5 to Omagh. In Omagh take the B48 for Gortin. Continue on for several miles until sign for Forest park. Several ~~campsite. Use carpark marked at~~ campsite.

From North, travel to Maghera, onto Tobermore, Draperstown to Gortin, via the B47. After X-Rds, road forks. Keep left onto the Broghderg Rd. follow to Greencastle. Take Right onto B46 to Gortin. In town, take left and follow signs to FP.

4th August. Derrymore Wood, National trust Property, OS Map No. 29 J056280

Follow from your location to Newry. Continue to turn off for Bessbrook/Camlough. Continue onto the A25 to Camlough. Follow National Trust signposts for Derrymore. Well signposted.

18th August. Belfast Castle and surrounding woodlands. OS Map No. J328792.

From Outside Belfast (to avoid city traffic.) Travel onto/down M2. Come off the MW at Mallusk. Take the turn for Antrim rd/Cavehill/ Zoo. Continue down the road. Past Zoo and take the turn on R for Belfast Castle. At entrance is sign for Cavehill adventure playground. . Meet in carpark on left of hairpin bend. Otherwise through Belfast, make your way to Clifton Street and onto the Antrim Road. Follow up the road until you see the entrance on left as described above.

1st September, Derrynoid Wood. OS Map No. 13 H761959

Follow towards Maghera. On Glenshane road, take Tobermore Rd, A29. Follow to X-Rds. Take B41 for Draperstown. In town, at x-Rds, take B40 for Derrynoid. Carpark in the Rural College grounds.

15th September. Murlough Dunes. OS Map No. 29 J396341From Belfast.

From Belfast. Follow the A24 through Carryduff, Temple, Ballynahinch, to Clough. Straight at

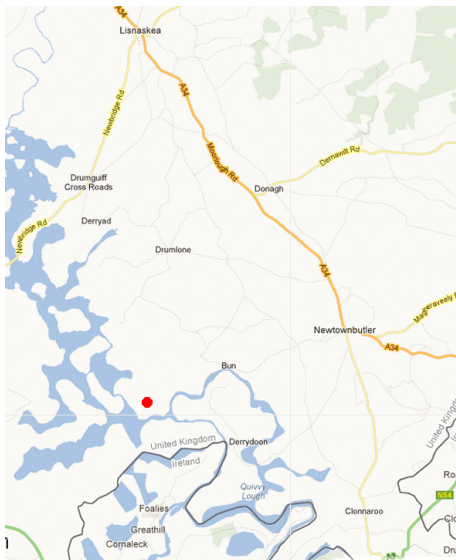
Roundabout. Follow straight towards Newcastle. Through Dundrum Village. Continue on. Pass large carpark with Toilet facilities. Look for next carpark on your right called the 12 Arches Carpark. Right then left into carpark. Meet here.

30th September. Crom Estate National Trust Map no. 27 H365245

Leading Guided walk. Follow M1 out of Belfast towards West. Onto A4 turn of at Lisnaska. Follow the A34 to Newtownbutler. In village follow the signage for Crom Estate.

Meet at main public carpark.

6th October 2012. Drum Manor Forest



Park, Cookstown. OS Map no. 13 H763778

Follow routes to Cookstown. When arriving in town follow sign for the A505 to Omagh.

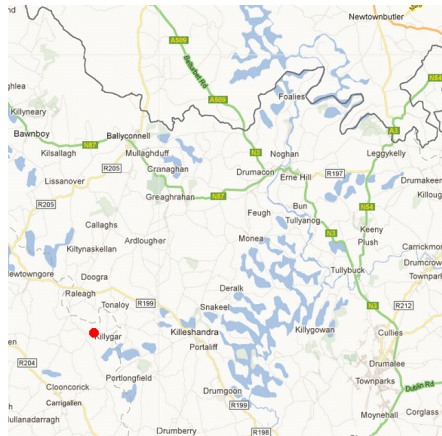
Drum Manor forest park is situated off this road on your LHS is coming from cookstown. Meet in main carpark. Parking fee required.

13th & 14th October Irish Mushroom Festival at Killegar Estate, Co. Leitrim.

Not a foray but an event which you can attend. Details found on the Killegar Website www.killegar.net

20th-27th BMS Trip Fermanagh Area

Booking only. All people wishing to attend this for the full weekend must



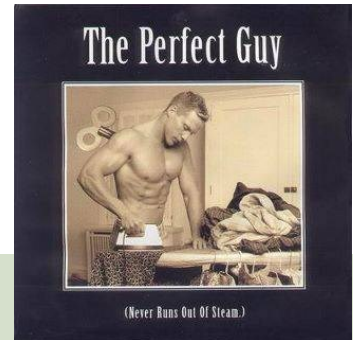
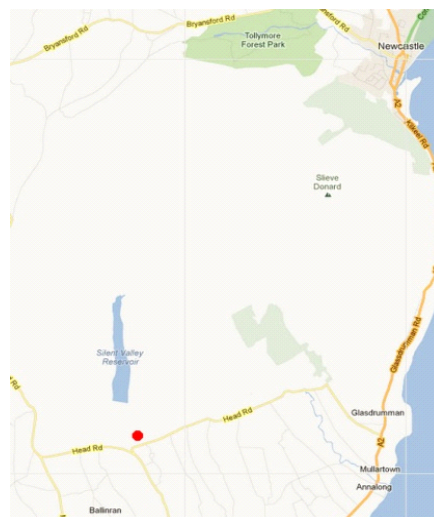
contact Carol Hobart at the BMS and book through her.

Our own residential weekend as previous years will take place on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the beginning of this week but all members are invited to stay the full week at the Share Holiday Village in Co. Fermanagh. Details of this week will follow separately

Carol Hobart email address: geastrum@tiscali.co.uk

10th November. Silent Valley OS map no. J310205

Follow to Newcastle. Through town and continue to left onto coast road. Sign directing you to Silent Valley. Turn on your right. Follow to large gates. Enter reserve. You will need to pay a small parking fee at this site.



DISCLAIMER

The contents of NIFG NEWS are as accurate as can be achieved within the constraints of a small newsletter. The editorial staff take no responsibility for views expressed about the edibility or otherwise of fungi described by contributors. Edibility is a relative term and what may suit one person may react badly with another. The identification of fungi for consumption is entirely the responsibility of the individual reader. Guidance given in these pages is not definitive and regardless of the degree of expertise available, infers no guarantee of edibility. Therefore the management accept no responsibility for the consumption of fungal fruiting bodies based on information presented here, whatever the advice or ultimate consequences.

1. *Microglossum olivacea*
2. *Cystoderma amianthinum*
3. *Lecanium scabrum*
4. *Lactarius deliciosus*
5. *Ganoderma resinaceum*
6. *Amanita citrina*
7. *Ganoderma lucidum*
8. *Cortinarius hemitrichus*
9. *Bolbitis vitellinus*
10. *Cortinarius sanguineus*

PICTURE QUIZ