



The Warwickshire Fungus Group Newsletter 2023

Affiliated to the British Mycological Society

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Introduction

The 2023 fungus season started with an exciting email from Francisco saying that **Black Morels, *Morchella elata*** were growing in the shrubbery by the staff car park at the Aldi supermarket in Leamington. A small group of enthusiasts met on the 7th April to admire them, only to be pipped at the post by Tim Knight who picked one of the best and probably the most photogenic the day before and said it was not very tasty.

Francisco then commented that the Spanish do not eat fresh morels but dry them for a year or so to improve the flavour. If you want to go and look for them in 2024, please do not use the staff car park as Dave Champion had to face the wrath of a “jobsworth”. A small number of **Thimble Morels, *Verpa conica*** were seen at Brandon Marsh a little later after another Francisco tip-off. The Spring meeting was held at The Tunnel, Fenny Compton, a limestone reserve in the south of the county and a good range of species were seen despite the dry weather and limited habitat. The Fungus Group took its publicity board and books and went to the County Records Meeting in Warwick in March. Alex Jones from the Wildlife Trust was asking for help for the Coventry City Nature Challenge 2023 and a joint Flora and Fungus group meeting at Gibbet Hill was quickly arranged. The fungal highlight was yet another Morel, **Semifree Morel, *Mitrophora semilibera*** that was seen beside a stream and who can forget shaking a tall birch tree to free Nuria's rather terrifying drone where it had somehow found itself stuck whilst taking publicity videos of the group.



Morchella elata – DC
Leamington

In the main season the September weather was very dry and there were few agarics to be seen, but at Coombe Abbey things changed. The main group covered only a small area before lunch and felt happy with their finds, but a few hardy fungus hunters moved on to new habitat after lunch and the subsequent list was probably one of the best for a Warwickshire foray. We will be going back later next year. Another surprise was Barn End Meadow near Knowle. Liz Brace, the owner, had sent us photos of the Waxcaps she had seen in her meadow the previous year. In 2023 there was a poor showing with only wonderfully coloured Parrot Waxcaps of note. The rest of the site, an old garden and some oak woodland was very rich. This is one of the first sites where material was collected for DNA analysis and it produced some interesting species. ***Cortinarius desertorum*** was new to

Warwickshire, and we found the second British records for *Inocybe gaiana* and *Mycena cicognanii*. A rather sad fact is that many of what we thought were common species that had been confidently identified by experienced mycologists in the field, came back with different names after having their DNA examined! It was a lovely site and thank you for the delicious honey. After the dry Autumn there was a lot of wet weather. The Met Office forecasts for the Burton Dassett meeting were so poor that we decided to cancel it, and the fruiting season petered out in November. We will try Snitterfield and Kingsbury Water Park again next year, weather permitting.



Mycena cicognanii – Barn End Meadow

On 1st October the Wildlife Trust allowed us to use The Barn at Brandon Marsh for our first Microscope Day for many years. Francisco, Di and John all brought microscopes to encourage more of the group to move down the path of spore characteristics and cheilocystidia. We will have to wait to see if it was successful.



Inocybe gaiana – Barn End Meadow

One of the most important events for the Fungus Group happened by chance on 30 July when John and Monika Walton went to check some of the rare aquatic plants that grow on the small private nature reserve of Alvecote Wood. The owner Stephen Briggs met them and as it was nearly Autumn, they said that they would look out for any early fruiting fungi and the Warwickshire Fungus Group came up in conversation. John mentioned that the group were looking for funding for a Bento Lab DNA Sequencing Kit. Stephen calmly said he would be prepared to fund it. It was then over to Francisco who did all the hard work getting together other grant money and dealing with the Wildlife Trust in order that monies could be exchanged as the group is only an email group and has no bank account. A full description of Francisco's wonderful discoveries is covered in his article below.

An Unexpected DNA Journey – Francisco Verenciano

Contact: fveren@yahoo.es



Fig. 1. Portable Bento lab for DNA extraction, amplification and gel visualisation. Photograph © Bento Bioworks Ltd 2024.

Up to 2023, microscopy was the main technique used by the Warwickshire Fungus Group to identify difficult fungi. This has been an effective way in classifying many collections (fungi samples) to species level, but certain genera (groups of similar species) present a challenge in the large number of closely related species.

In 2023, articles and talks from the British Mycological Society about DNA sequencing using the Bento lab (Fig. 1) started to pop in our newsfeeds and grabbed our attention. After a few more conversations with experts (Brian Douglas @ Bento Bioworks Ltd, David Harries @ Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network and Nick Aplin @ Sussex Fungus Group) and articles read (Eric Janke @ Hampshire Fungus Recording Group) we were sold!

We initially found a DNA analysis company (Alvalab) in Spain which specialises in sequencing of fungi. We sent them a few samples over several months. The results came back very quickly, and we were impressed by the analysis (Figs 2 and 3), which got us wondering: how expensive would a DNA machine be to buy? Could we do DNA testing ourselves? A little more research and we found that a DNA extraction machine is not as expensive as we thought and that a few fungus groups in Britain were already using them effectively. However, we were aware of some disadvantages; that it takes time and effort to process-analyse the samples, one needs to secure consumables-servicing (e.g., chemicals and parts), training is required and, crucially, a high level of expertise is needed to effectively analyse results (Fig. 5).

On the other hand, the main advantage of owning a DNA machine would be that we would no longer have to depend on paying external services, which is difficult for an amateur fungus group like ours which does not have a bank account, a committee or paid membership. Furthermore, we could avoid having to send samples abroad, so we could be self-sufficient, and it would bring a new standard of knowledge to make a fungus group stand out within the mycology community.

The decision was made. We would try acquiring a DNA machine (Bento lab) and give it a go.



Fig. 2. *Simocybe centunculus*.
Compton Verney, Warwickshire,
VC38. 24/09/23. Photograph ©
Francisco Verenciano.

98.92% match *Simocybe centunculus* KT715787:

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CCTACCTGATTTGAGGTCAAATTGTCATTTGTATTGTCTGA  
TGATCAACGGTTAAAGCGGCATGACCCCTCAAAGCGTGG  
GCGCCTAACAGCGTAGATAATTATCACACTGATAGTCGTTT  
CCACTAGGGCACCACCTAATATATTTTCAGGAGAGCCGAACC  
TCGTAAGAAGCCAGCAAGCCCCACATCCAAGCCTTAGTT  
CGCAAAAAAATTATAAAGGTTAAAATTTATTGACCCCA  
AACAGGCTGGTCCTTGAATTACCAAGGACCCAGAAGGC  
GTCCAAAAATCCAAGAATCCCTTGAATTCCGGCATTTCCT  
TAATTTTTCCCTTTCCCTTGCCTCCTCCTTCATTGCAAAAC  
CCAAAAAACCCGTGGTTGAAGGTGGATTTTTGGTTTTAG  
GTCCAAAAAATAATGGATACTTTTCGGTTACTTTTCATGGGG  
GGATGGTAAAAACCGAACCCCGGGAAAAACCGCAGGGGAAGG  
CGGGATTACTTAAAAACCCCAAGCCCAATTCCGGATC  
CCGCCAAATAAGGTGGTTCCAGTCTACGGGGGGGGC  
CGGGGGAAAAATTAAGAAGGACCAGCAAGCCCTTGCT  
CCAAAAAACCCACTTCACCAGCCAGGTTAATTCATTATG  
GATCCTTCCCCAGGTCCCCCCTTACGGAA
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Fig. 3. Example of ITS DNA sequence result
and Blast match from Alva Lab.

We were very lucky to get funding from Mr. Stephen Briggs @ Pragmasis Ltd (Security for Bikes - Ethical Engineering, owner of Alvecote Wood and wildlife enthusiast), British Mycological Society and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT). WWT also helped finalise the purchase of the unit as we could not do it as an amateur group. WWT will therefore be the owner of the Bento lab, which could also potentially be used for sequencing other taxa e.g., lichens, plants, invertebrates, etc. in our county and helping build species knowledge on nature reserves.

Getting into DNA sequencing for a group of amateur mycologists like us has been a milestone experience. In the past, it had been a common occurrence that even after hours of microscopy and research, it had not been possible to classify a mushroom further than its genus. Often, the collection was either not included in our books, or we were not able to find any online references for it or there were many similar species to choose between. Having the possibility to send odd specimens for sequencing has allowed us, just this year, to jump from an average of two 'New to County' records in previous years to around 20 'New to County' records this last year (including two New to Britain records). Also, we are not wasting hours of inconclusive microscopy now that we have the possibility of sending it for DNA analysis if all other identification routes are inconclusive. DNA analysis gives us possible species to compare with our initial microscopy results.

The process of DNA barcoding fungi at home involves, for example, the following protocol (EverymanBio, 2021):

1. The first step is the DNA extraction, where a tiny piece of a couple of millimetres from a mushroom sample is put inside a test tube with sodium hydroxide to release the DNA. Next, a buffer solution is added to neutralise the pH. This mix is then heated in a thermocycler (a thermal cycler that heats the DNA sample in cycles) and then spun in a centrifuge (a machine with a rapidly rotating container to separate fluids of different densities).
2. The second step is the DNA amplification via the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Here, the lab makes millions of copies of the DNA sequence so that it can be studied in greater detail and then 'forward' and 'reverse' primers (short nucleic acid sequences that provide a starting point for DNA synthesis) are added. This is then put in the thermal cycling process again.
3. The final step in the extraction process is to use the gel electrophoresis function to verify that the PCR has worked by displaying the DNA ladders (Fig. 4).
4. The amplified DNA then needs to be sent to a lab (e.g., Aberystwyth University) where they can use a genetic analyser machine to produce the DNA sequence.
5. Once the sequence is returned, the free online local alignment search tool (BLAST) (www.blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) can be used to compare it with all the other sequences stored in Genbank (world public database of sequences).

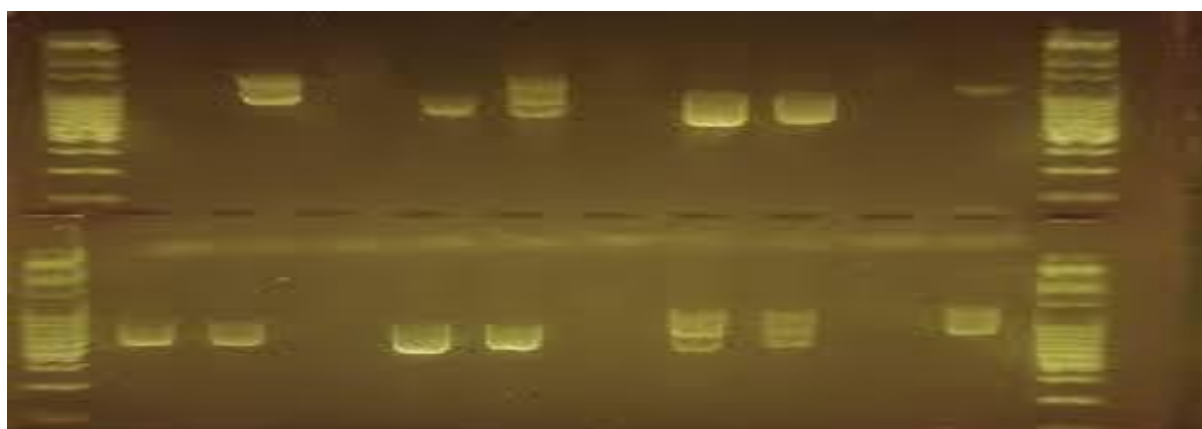


Fig. 4. The gel electrophoresis (the movement of charged particles in a fluid under an electric field) function displays the DNA ladders and it is used to verify the DNA extraction and amplification (PCR) success. Photograph © Bento Bioworks Ltd 2024.

The final and most difficult part of the process is where knowledge, experience and/or computer programs (e.g. DNA sequence assembler, www.dna.baser.com) are needed to clean and evaluate the sequence and the chromatogram (Figs 5 and 6) against all other similar sequences and see which ones are a true match to species level and which have some similarity, as would be denoted as 'cf.' in the record. All of this taking into account that many of the sequences associated to species in GenBank might not be accurate, which shows that while DNA sequencing might not be perfect it is a great tool to narrow down identification of difficult species groups.

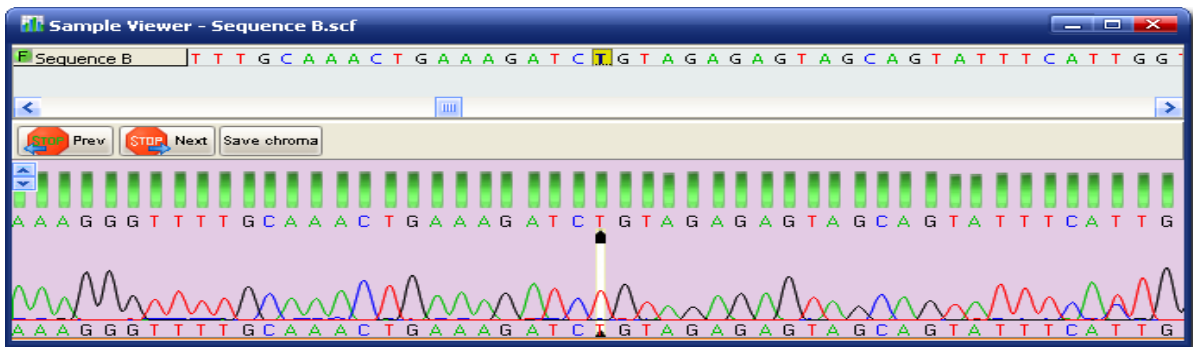


Fig. 5. Chromatogram file to evaluate the base pairs against their quality values. Photograph © DNA Baser 2024.

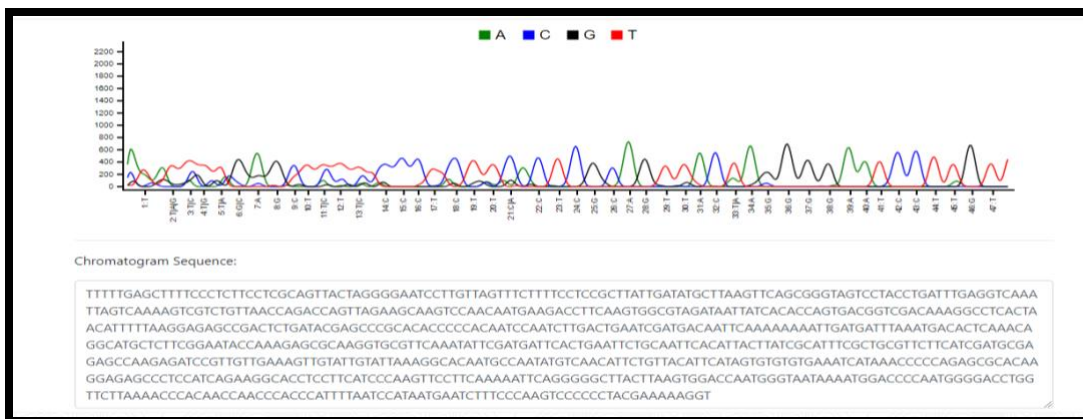


Fig. 6. *Gerhardtia borealis* chromatogram and sequence using Teal (<https://www.gear-genomics.com/teal/>). A species new to Britain that WFG was able to determine thanks to DNA barcoding. Photograph © Francisco Verenciano.

We have just received the Bento Lab unit and will soon start using it for fungi sequencing. We will also keep using Alvalab when needed as it provides a great service with great knowledge and expertise.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to all mycophile friends of Warwickshire Fungus Group (www.wfg.hedgeline.org) for their inspiration, support, and guidance. Thanks also to all members of the WFG for participation in field surveys. Massive thanks to Gary Hillier for his help correcting and editing articles. Thanks to our group co-ordinator John S. Walton for his passion and resourcefulness in organising forays. Special thanks to Stephen Briggs for kick starting this journey with his kind donation and British Mycological Society and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust for their help and support with purchasing the Bento lab.

For references see **Appendix 1**

Forays

230 different species were seen during the foray season, comparing with just 192 species seen in 2022 even though three forays were cancelled due to poor weather. DNA sequencing has obviously increased the number of species seen but many of the new county records were identified using the old-fashioned techniques of good observation, books, and careful microscopy. There is a full list of New County Records and Nationally Protected species at the end of the Foray Reports.

Key to forayers at each foray.

This section is much larger this year as the group has many new members.

AA (Anna Afiontzi), AB (Alex Bailey), ABI (Alexa Bihari), AD (Anna Dudley), ADA (Abigail Darling), AEL (Amy Elson), AH (Alex Hampson), AS (Adele Stevenson), ASM (Adrian Smith), BB (Bethany Bucknell), BN (Beth Nemeth), CH (Christine Hodgson), DC (David Champion), DG (Dinah Griffin), DM (Dawn McCarroll), DN (Di Napier), DP (David Parker), EF (Eve Fleming), EL (Elsbeth Leighton), ES (Elspeth Sage), FV (Francisco Verenciano), GH (Gary Hillier), GM (Gemma Musgreaves), HC (Hannah Creberer), HL (Hannah Lewis), JG (Jeff Grant), JH (Jackie Hardy), JHI (Josh Hilton), JP (John Parkinson), JR (Juliet Routledge), JSW (John Walton), JW (Julie Wheatcroft), KR (Kay Reeve), LD (Liz Darling), LG (Lauren Gardner), LJ (Luke Jenkins), LL (Lily Liu), LLA (Lukas Large), MJR (Marie-Jane Roberts), MVW (Monika Walton), NJM (Naomi Jenkins Martinez), NA (Nuria Alonso), PP (Philippa Parkinson), RD (Ray Drury), RJ (Rob Jones), SB (Sonia Baines), SD (Sally Drury), SG (Stephanie Gaskin), SGR (Sarah Grear), SM (Sam McVie), STW (Steve Wright), SW (Simon Woodfield), TC (Ted Carron), TK (Tim Knight).

FORAY REPORTS

Gibbet Hill Wood and Tocil Wood Coventry Saturday 29 April 2023

An enthusiastic plea at the WBRC Recorders Conference led to this extra mini "bioblitz", where we were joined by a few members of the Flora Group as part of the Coventry City Nature Challenge 2023. A lack of recent frosts and some rain helped us produce a decent list, but our talented group also sent in records of slugs, woodlice, lichens, mosses and a lonely Grey Squirrel.

Forayers: DN, FV, GH, JH, JSW, MVW, NV, SW plus a few members of the Warwickshire Flora Group and the Coventry Ecology Team.

Species list - 14 species

Gibbet Hill Wood

Basidiomycetes			
<i>Byssomerulius corium</i>	Netted Crust	Tree trunk base	
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing Bracket	On willow	
<i>Flammulina velutipes</i>	Velvet Shank	Stump, deciduous.	ID FV spores and cap structure checked
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail	On fallen branch	

Tocil Wood

Basidiomycetes			
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	Fallen Oak tree trunk	
<i>Psathyrella candolleana</i>	Pale Brittlestem	Wood	ID FV
<i>Coprinus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap	Buried Wood	

Ascomycetes, smuts, rusts, etc.			
<i>Hypoxyylon fuscum</i>	Hazel Woodwart	Hazel branch	
<i>Lachnum virgineum</i>	Snowy Disco	Stem	ID FV
<i>Melampsora rostrupii</i>	Rust	Leaves and stem of Dog's Mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	ID DN
<i>Morchella semilibera</i>	Semifree Morel	Soil, near Ash tree	
<i>Puccinia sessilis</i>	Rust	On leaves of Arum <i>maculatum</i>	ID DN
<i>Sarcocypha austriaca</i>	Scarlet Elfcup	Fallen wet branches	ID FV, spore shape and hairs checked.
<i>Xylaria polymorpha</i>	Dead Man's Fingers	Decaying Wood	



From Left to Right – *Trametes versicolor* (Turkey Tail), *Xylaria sp.*, *Lachnum virgineum* (Snowy Disco), *Coprinellus micaceus* (Glistening Inkcap) – Tocil Wood

The Tunnel, Fenny Compton Sunday 30 April 2023

A good start for the year with some new members at a reserve created from scrub by Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire. The open limestone grassland with many tree stumps was a promising habitat. Some species were found on mown grass that had been left under the bushes after cutting. We saw many specimens of Glistening Inkcap with no glistening scales at all and in various colours from grey to near chestnut, hence the "sect." ID by FV.

Forayers: AA, DC, DG, DN, FV, JP, JSW, KR, LG, NV, PP, RD, SD
Species list - 18 species

Basidiomycetes			
<i>Agrocybe praecox</i>	Spring Fieldcap	Soil amongst grass	ID FV
<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	Smoky Bracket		
<i>Bolbitius titubans</i>	Yellow Fieldcap	On rotting cut grass	
<i>Calocybe gambosa</i>	St. George's Mushroom	In grass	ID DN
<i>Cerioporus squamosus</i>	Dryads Saddle	Tree stump, probably willow	
<i>Coprinellus disseminatus</i>	Fairy Inkcap	On stumps in the grass.	
<i>Coprinellus domesticus</i>	Firerug Inkcap	Stump	ID FV Spores checked.
<i>Coprinus sect. micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap	On stumps in the grass.	ID FV Spores checked.
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing Bracket	Willow	
<i>Lepista nuda</i>	Wood Blewit	On rotting cut grass	ID FV
<i>Phellinus pomaceus</i>	Cushion Bracket	Fallen Tree branch	ID DC DG
<i>Phellinus igniarius</i>	Willow Bracket	Willow	
<i>Psathyrella spadiceogrisea</i>	Spring Brittlestem	Soil amongst grass	
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail		



A striking image of *Phragmidium* Sp. A rust fungus growing on Dog rose leaves



Collybia (Lepista) nuda – Wood Blewit, featuring a little spider.

Ascomycetes, smuts, rusts, etc.			
<i>Melampsora epitea</i> var. <i>Epitea</i>	Rust	On Spindle	ID DN
<i>Microbotryum violaceum</i>	Smut	On anthers of Red Campion <i>Silene dioica</i>	ID DC
<i>Phragmidium mucronatum</i>	Rust	On Dog Rose leaves	ID JSW
<i>Verpa conica</i>	Thimble Morel	Under Hawthorn	ID FV spores and attachment to stem were both checked.



Bolbitius titubans – Yellow Feildcap. Pictured **Left** – DC presenting a specimen to members of the group, **Right** – close-up image.

Group members in the backdrop of a *Coprionellus* sect. *micaceus*.

Sperrall Park and Morgrove Coppice, Heart of England Forest Sunday 20 August 2023

Forayers: AB, BB, DC, FV, JP, JSW, LL, MVW, PP, SM, SW, TK

Sam MacVie from the Heart of England Forest guided us around this area of ancient woodland that was a mixture of large oaks and birch. The wet summer which led to an early fruiting season and a wide variety of species were seen.

DC spent time comparing the identification points of the two *Amanita* species and the much-photographed Glazed Cup was probably the highlight of the foray. Species list - 32 species



Pseudoinonotus dryadeus – Oak Bracket Fungus. Picture by John Parkinson (JP)

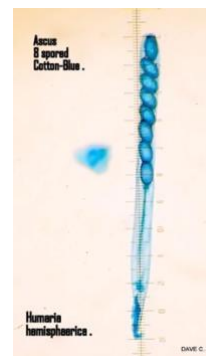
Basidiomycetes			
<i>Amanita ceciliae</i>	Snakeskin Grisette	Under oak.	conf. DC
<i>Amanita fulva</i>	Tawny Grisette	Under oak.	conf. FV
<i>Armillaria gallica</i>	Bulbous Honey Fungus	On oak log	conf. FV
<i>Armillaria</i> sp.	Honey Fungus sp.	"Bootlaces" seen on old oak log.	possible
<i>Calocera viscosa</i>	Yellow Stagshorn	On conifer log	
<i>Fomitopsis betulinus</i>	Birch Polypore	On <i>Betula pendula</i>	
<i>Gymnopus peronatus</i>	Wood Woolly-foot	Under Hazel/oak	conf. DC
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	on log, probably birch	
<i>Inocybe geophylla</i> var. <i>Lilacina</i>	White Fibrecap	Under oak.	conf. FV
<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>	Amethyst Deceiver	On log	conf. DC
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	The Deceiver	On soil under oak	
<i>Mycena haematopus</i>	Burgundydrop Bonnet	On birch stump	conf. FV
<i>Peniophora quercina</i>	Oak Crust	On small oak branch	
<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	Deer Shield	On oak log	conf. DC
<i>Pseudoinonotus dryadeus</i>	Oak Bracket	On oak	conf. FV
<i>Russula atropurpurea</i>	Purple Brittlegill	Under oak.	conf. JSW

<i>Russula ochroleucum</i>	Ochre Brittlegill	Under oak.	
<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>	Common Earthball	Under oak.	conf. DC
<i>Scleroderma verrucosum</i>	Scaly Earthball	Under Quercus robur	
<i>Stereum gausapatum</i>	Bleeding Oak Crust	On oak	
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust	On birch stump	
<i>Trametes hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bracket	On Hazel	conf. JSW
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail	On birch stump	
Basidiomycetes			
<i>Amanita ceciliae</i>	Snakeskin Grisette	Under oak.	conf. DC
<i>Amanita fulva</i>	Tawny Grisette	Under oak.	conf. FV

Ascomycetes, smuts, rusts, etc.			
<i>Epichloë typhina</i>	Choke	On stem of Yorkshire Fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>)	
<i>Fuligo septica</i>	Dog's Vomit slime mould		
<i>Humaria hemisphaerica</i>	Glazed cup	On rotting birch log	conf. DC
<i>Hypomyces chrysospermus</i>	Bolete eater	Mould on Bolete sp.	
<i>Hypoxylon multiforme</i>	Birch Woodwart	Fallen birch branch	
<i>Microsphaera alphitoides</i>	Oak Mildew	on oak	
<i>Mucilago crustacea</i>	Dog Sick slime mould	On bracken stem	conf. FV
<i>Puccinia caricina</i>	Rust, stage III	On Great Pendulous Sedge (<i>Carex pendula</i>)	conf. JSW
<i>Puccinia striiformis</i>	Rust, stage II	On Creeping Soft-grass (<i>Holcus mollis</i>)	conf. JSW



Inocybe geophylla var. *lilacina*
– Lilac Fibrecap



Humaria hemisphaerica - Glazed Cup. Left – Fungus *in situ*, Right – Microscope image showing the 8 ascospores enclosed in a single Ascus. Dyed cotton blue – images by DC.

Wedge Wood, Coundon, 3 September 2023, a joint meeting with Friends of Wedge Wood.

Forayers: AA, AD, AS, CH, DG, DM, EL, ES, FV, JP, JSW, NV, PP, RJ, SW

The week before the survey was mainly dry and the group saw very few mushroom-shaped agarics. The Friend's Group had left a lot of fallen and felled wood between the trees and there were plenty of brackets and resupinates to examine and discuss.



Pleurotus sp. Oyster Mushroom.

Anna Dudley, who suggested the site for a foray, said that the wood was only 30 years old, but it still held a good variety of tree species for such a small wood with a lot of Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and some Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) which helped lift the species total for the morning.

Species list - 29 species

Basidiomycetes			
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Jelly Ear	Elder	conf. JSW
<i>Byssomerulius corium</i>	Netted Crust	On fallen deciduous branch	conf. FV
<i>Coprinopsis atramentaria</i>	Common Inkcap	On soil in woodland	conf. FV
<i>Crepidotus cesati</i>	Roundspored Oysterling	On Birch	conf. FV
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing Bracket	On Birch	conf. FV
<i>Exidia nucleata</i>	Crystal Brain	On fallen deciduous branch	conf. EL
<i>Ganoderma australe</i>	Southern Bracket	On Beech	conf. FV
<i>Hapalopilus nidulans</i>	Cinnamon Bracket	On Cherry	conf. FV
<i>Marasmiellus ramealis</i>	Twig Parachute	On deciduous twig	conf. FV
<i>Marasmius rotula</i>	Collared Parachute	On buried wood.	conf. FV, JSW
<i>Meripilus giganteus</i>	Giant Polypore	Deciduous tree	conf. FV
<i>Phellinus pomaceus</i>	Cushion Bracket	Cherry	conf. FV
<i>Fomitopsis betulina</i>	Birch Polypore	Birch	conf. JSW
<i>Pleurotus pulmonarius</i>	Pale Oyster	On Elder	conf. FV
<i>Polyporus leptcephalus</i>	Blackfoot Polypore		conf. FV
<i>Postia subcaesia</i>	Blueing Bracket	On fallen deciduous branch	conf. JSW
<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>	Common Earthball	On soil	conf. FV
<i>Scleroderma verrucosum</i>	Scaly Earthball	On soil	conf. FV
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust	On Hazel	conf. JSW
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail	On Birch	conf. JSW
<i>Trichaptum abietinum</i>	Purplepore Bracket	On Pine stump	conf. DG
<i>Tricholomopsis rutilans</i>	Plums and Custard	On Pine stump	conf. FV



Left - *Hapalopilus nidulans*, Cinnamon Bracket, showing purple reaction to KOH

Right - *Fomitopsis betulina*, Birch Polypore.



Ascomycetes, smuts, rusts, etc.			
<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	Cramp Balls	On fallen deciduous branch	conf. DG
<i>Hypoxylon fuscum</i>	Hazel Woodward	Hazel branch	conf. FV
<i>Nectria cinnabarina</i>	Coral Spot	On deciduous twig	conf. DG
<i>Phragmidium violaceum</i>	Violet Bramble Rust	On Bramble leaf	conf. JSW
<i>Metatrachia floriformis</i>	Slime Mould	On rotting Log	conf. DG
<i>Trochila ilicina</i>	Holly Speckle	On Holly leaf	conf. DG
<i>Xylaria polymorpha</i>	Dead Man's Fingers	On rotting log	conf. DG



Trichaptum abietinum, Purplepore Bracket.



Spores of *Scleroderma citrinum*, Common Earthball. Spores resembling Pac-Man.

Grounds of Compton Verney, 24 September 2023

Foragers: AH, BB, DC, DG, DN, EF, FV, JSW, KR, LLA, MJR, SB, SW, TK

We walked from the car park to an area of woodland by a stream to the north end of the lake. Agarics were not numerous but there was much fallen wood and plenty of brackets and a few choice cup fungi to see. The fallen wood was difficult to identify, but the dominant trees were sycamore and ash, with an odd cherry, some aspen and of course beech where the Beechmast Candlesnuff was found. The few grassland species were seen on the walk to the wood. A pretty, small *Bisporella* sp. (Lemon Disco) that many photographed, was not identifiable when examined under the microscope.

Species list - 30 species



Simocybe centunculus – Dingy Twiglet.

Basidiomycetes			
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Jelly Ear	Elder	conf. JSW
<i>Calocera cornea</i>	Small Stagshorn	On rotting wood	conf. DC
<i>Coprinellus disseminatus</i>	Fairy Inkcap	On buried wood	conf. DN
<i>Crepidotus mollis</i>	Peeling Oysterling	On fallen tree	conf. DC
<i>Dacrymyces stillatus</i>	Common Jellyspot	On fallen log	conf. DC
<i>Erythricium aurantiacum</i>	Lichenicolous basidiomycete	On Physcia adscendens (Hooded rosette lichen)	conf. DN
<i>Ganoderma applanatum</i>	Artist's Bracket	Deciduous tree	DC to ID
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	The Deceiver	In soil	FV to ID
<i>Lycoperdon pyriforme</i>	Stump Puffball	On tree stump	conf. JSW
<i>Marasmius rotula</i>	Collared Parachute	On rotting wood	conf. DC
<i>Mycena acicula</i>	Scarlet Bonnet	On rotting wood	conf. DN
<i>Parasola leiocephala</i>	Bald Inkcap	Grassland	conf. DN and DN
<i>Phellinus pomaceus</i>	Cushion crust	On cherry	conf. DC
<i>Picipes (Polyporus) badius</i>	Bay Polypore		conf. FV
<i>Pleurotus pulmonarius</i>	Pale Oyster	On fallen Ash	conf. DC
<i>Postia stiptica</i>	Bitter Bracket	On decaying deciduous log	conf. DC
<i>Psathyrella candolleana</i>	Pale Brittlestem	On dead stump	conf. FV
<i>Psathyrella clivensis</i>		Grassland	conf. FV
<i>Simocybe centunculus</i>	Dingy Twiglet	On twig	conf. DN
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust	On stacked branches of deciduous tree.	conf. DG
<i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	Yellow Brain	On fallen branch	conf. FV



Chlorencoelia versiformis, Flea's Ear. Left to right, Fungus *in situ*, ascospores, ascus containing the ascospores. Images by DC.

Ascomycetes, smuts, rusts, etc.			
<i>Ceratiomyces fruticulosa</i>	Slime Mould		conf. DC
<i>Chlorencoelia versiformis</i>	Flea's Ear	On fallen log	conf. DC

<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	Cramp Balls	Decaying deciduous log	conf. TK
<i>Nectria cinnabarinna</i>	Coral Spot	On cut branch	conf. DG
<i>Neonectria coccinea</i>		On dead decorticated wood	conf. DG
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Sycamore Tar-spot	On Sycamore leaves	conf. DG
<i>Xylaria carpophila</i>	Beechmast Candlesnuff	On Beechmast	conf. LL
<i>Xylaria longipes</i>	Dead Moll's Fingers	On decaying deciduous log	conf. DG
<i>Xylaria polymorpha</i>	Dead Man's Fingers	On rotting log	conf. DG



Parasola leiocephala,
Bald Inkcap.



Polyporus badius,
Bay Polypore

Coombe Abbey Country Park, 8 October 2023

Paul Hodges, the ranger from Coombe Abbey joined us on a rather short foray that only managed to cover the small area of woodland between the visitor centre and the hotel. There was plenty for the large group to see as there were many felled logs of various species in the damp shade which gave us a good selection of fungi. Paul, who had held another foray at Coombe the previous day also showed us a Striated Earthstar *Geastrum striatum* that he had found. Some scruffy dark *Russulas* were taken away but were not identifiable. This is a must for next year's programme as there are acid grassland and wet woodland to investigate further.

Forayers: AEL, AH, AS, BN, DC, DG, DP, FV, GM, HC, JHI, JP, JSW, JW, KR, MJR, LJ, NJM, PP, SG, SGR, SW

Species list - 62 species.



Pluteus umbrosus, Velvet
Shield.

Basidiomycetes			
<i>Calocera cornea</i>	Small Stagshorn	On rotting wood	conf. DC
<i>Calvatia gigantea</i>	Giant Puffball	On soil	conf. DG
<i>Coprinus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap	On soil	conf. FV
<i>Crepidotus mollis</i>	Peeling Oysterling	On fallen wood	conf. DC
<i>Ganoderma australe</i>	Southern Bracket	On stump	conf. DC
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	The Deceiver	Soil	conf. DC
<i>Lepiota cristata</i>	Stinking Dapperling	O+C298n soil	conf. DC
<i>Lycoperdon pyriforme</i>	Stump Puffball	On stump	conf. JSW
<i>Phleogena faginea</i>	Fenugreek Stalkball	On rotting wood	conf. DC

<i>Pholiota aurivella</i>	Golden Scalycap		conf. FV.
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Oyster	On stump	conf. FV
<i>Pluteus aurantiorugosus</i>	Flame Shield	On large rotting log	conf. FV
<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	Deer Shield	On stump	conf. DC
<i>Pluteus chrysophebius</i> (<i>P. chrysophaeus</i>)	Yellow Shield	On large rotting log	Cellular cuticle, confirmed JW and FV
<i>Pluteus umbrosus</i>	Velvet Shield	On large rotting log	conf. DC
<i>Polyporus badia</i>	Bay Polypore	On rotting wood	conf. DC
<i>Postia stiptica</i>	Bitter Bracket	On large rotting log	conf. FV
<i>Psathyrella spadicea</i>	Chestnut Brittlestem	Base of tree	conf. FV
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail	On stump	conf. JSW
<i>Xerula radicans</i>	Rooting Shank	On soil	conf. DC



Pluteus chrysophaeus,
Yellow Shield. Growing
next to a degraded
sycamore seed.



Pleurotus ostreatus,
Oyster Mushroom.

Ascomycetes, smuts, rusts, etc.			
<i>Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa</i>	Slime Mould	On rotting tree stump	conf. DC
<i>Chlorociboria aeruginescens</i>	Green Elfcup	On rotting wood	conf. JSW
<i>Phragmidium violaceum</i>	Violet Bramble Rust	On Bramble leaf	conf. JSW
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Sycamore Tar-spot	On Sycamore	conf. JSW
<i>Trichia varia</i>	Slime Mould	On rotting wood	conf. DG.
<i>Trichoderma aureoviride</i>		On fallen log	conf. DG.
<i>Xylaria longipes</i>	Dead Moll's Fingers	On rotting wood	conf. JSW
<i>Xylaria polymorpha</i>	Dead Man's Fingers	On rotting wood	conf. AS

In the afternoon a small group continued to explore some of the other habitats in the park and added many species

Basidiomycetes			
<i>Agaricus xanthodermus</i>	Yellow Stainer	On soil under conifers	conf. DC
<i>Amanita fulva</i>	Tawny Grisette	On soil under birch	conf. FV
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric	On soil under birch	conf. FV
<i>Amanita rubescens</i>	Blusher	On soil under hazel	conf. FV
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Jelly Ear	Elder	conf. FV

<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	Smoky Bracket	On fallen trunk	conf. DC
<i>Chlorophyllum rhacodes</i>	Shaggy Parasol	On soil under oak	conf. FV
<i>Clitocybe odora</i>	Aniseed Funnel	On soil under oak	conf. FV
<i>Collybia erythropus</i>	Redleg Toughshank	On wood debris under oak	conf. FV
<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	Shaggy Inkcap	On soil along grass	conf. FV
<i>Galerina marginata</i>	Funeral Bell	On fallen trunk	conf. FV
<i>Gymnopilus junonius</i>	Spectacular Rustgill	On tree stump	conf. DC
<i>Hortiboletus bubalinus</i>		On soil under oak	conf. FV
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	On fallen trunk	conf. FV
<i>Kretzschmaria deusta</i>	Brittle Cinder	On fallen trunk	conf. DC
<i>Kuehneromyces mutabilis</i>	Sheathed Woodtuft	On cut log possible sycamore	conf. FV
<i>Lacrymaria lacrymabunda</i>	Weeping Widow	On tree stump base	conf. DC
<i>Lactarius tabidus</i>	Birch Milkcap	On soil under birch	conf. FV
<i>Lenzites betulinus</i>	Birch Mazegill	On fallen trunk	conf. DC
<i>Leratomices ceres</i>	Redlead Roundhead	on twig under sycamore	conf. FV
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	Common Puffball	On soil under oak	conf. FV
<i>Lycoperdon pratense</i>	Meadow Puffball	on soil along grass	conf. FV
<i>Macrolepiota procera</i>	Parasol	on soil under hazel	conf. FV
<i>Mycena hematopus</i>	Burgundydrop Bonnet	on fallen trunk	conf. FV
<i>Mycena rosea</i>	Rosy Bonnet	on soil under oak	conf. FV
<i>Paxillus involutus</i>	Brown Roll-Rim	on soil under birch	conf. FV
<i>Phallus impudicus</i>	Stink Horn	on soil under sycamore	conf. FV
<i>Pholiota aurivella</i>	Golden Pholiota	On fallen sycamore trunk	conf. FV
<i>Phlebia tremellosa</i>	Jelly Rot	On fallen trunk	conf. DG
<i>Polyporus squamosus</i>	Dryad's Saddle	On fallen trunk	conf. FV
<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Ochre Brittlegill	On soil under oak	conf. FV
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust	On stacked branches of deciduous tree.	conf. FV
<i>Xerocomellus porosporus</i>	Sepia Bolete	On soil under hazel	conf. FV



Kuehneromyces mutabilis,
Sheathed
Woodtuft
fungus



Pholiota aurivella,
Golden
Scalycap.

Ascomycetes, smuts, rusts, etc.			
<i>Ceratiomyxa poroides</i>	Slime Mould	On tree stump	conf. DG



Xerocomellus porosporus,
Sepia Bolete.



Macrolepiota procera, Parasol
Mushroom.

Kenilworth Common, Sunday 22 October 2023

Forayers: AS, BB, CH, DC, DN, DP, EF, JH, JSW, KR, MVW, SG, SW, TK

After some really heavy rain we had a good variety of species to puzzle over, with plenty of agarics. The woodland was made up of birch, oak, and holly, but we also visited a small area of acid grassland where the waxcap and powdercap were seen. An interesting *Cortinarius* with a smell of *Pelargonium* was found under birch. Although there are only three species with this smell in Kibby our fungus would not key out.

Species list - 47 species

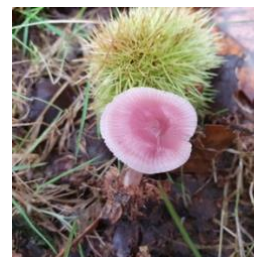
Basidiomycetes			
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric	Under Birch	conf. JSW
<i>Amanita rubescens</i>	The Blusher	Under Birch	conf. DC
<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	Smoky Bracket	On fallen branch	conf. DN
<i>Boletus edulis</i>	Penny Bun	Oak	conf. DC
<i>Chondrostereum purpureum</i>	Silverleaf Fungus	Oak	conf. TK
<i>Clitocybe gibba</i>	Common Funnel	On ground	conf. SG
<i>Clitocybe metachroa</i>	Twotone Funnel	On ground	conf. DC
<i>Cystoderma amianthinum</i>	Earthy Powdercap	In grassland	conf. DC
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosus</i>	Blushing Bracket	On fallen branch	conf. DN
<i>Fomitopsis betulainus</i>	Birch Polypore	Birch	conf. TK
<i>Ganoderma australe</i>	Southern Bracket	On stump, probably oak	conf. DC

<i>Gymnopus (Collybia) dryophilus</i>	Russet Toughshank	In soil under oak	conf. DC
<i>Gymnopus (Collybia) erythropus</i>	Redleg Toughshank	In soil under oak	conf. DC
<i>Hygrophorus coccinea</i>	Scarlet Waxcap	In acid grassland	conf. JSW
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	On stump, probably oak	conf. TK
<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>	Amethyst Deceiver	On soil	conf. JSW
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	The Deceiver	On soil	conf. DC
<i>Laccaria turpis</i>	Ugly Milkcap	On ground	conf. SG
<i>Lactarius quietus</i>	Oakbug Milkcap	Under Oak	conf. JSW, DN
<i>Lycopodium pyriforme</i>	Stump Puffball	On rotting stump	conf. JSW
<i>Macrotyphula fistulosa</i>	Pipe Club	On soil under oak or birch	conf. DC
<i>Macrotyphula juncea</i>	Slender Club	On soil under oak or birch	conf. DC
<i>Mycena crocata</i>	Saffrondrop Bonnet	On deciduous wood	conf. DN
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Milking Bonnet	On deciduous wood	conf. DN
<i>Mycena galopus</i>	Common Bonnet	On deciduous wood	conf. DN
<i>Mycena haematopus</i>	Burgundydrop Bonnet	On deciduous wood	conf. DN
<i>Panellus stipticus</i>	Bitter Oysterling	On deciduous wood	conf. DC
<i>Paxillus involutus agg.</i>	Brown Roll-Rim	Under Birch	conf. TK
<i>Phallus impudicus</i>	Stinkhorn	In soil	conf. DC
<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	Deer Shield	Base of oak tree	conf. TK
<i>Postia subcaesia</i>	Blueing Bracket	On old rotting branch of deciduous tree	conf. JSW
<i>Psathyrella corrugis</i>	Red Edge Brittlestem	On ground	conf. SG
<i>Resupinatus applicatus</i>	Smoked Oysterling	On small branch	conf. DC
<i>Rhodocollybia (Collybia) butyracea</i>	Butter Cap	On soil	conf. DC
<i>Russula atropurpureus</i>	Purple Brittle-gill	Under oak	conf. JSW
<i>Russula cyanoxantha</i>	Charcoal Burner	Under birch	conf. DC
<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Ochre Brittle-gill	Under birch	conf. JSW
<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>	Common Earthball	On soil by path	conf. JSW
<i>Stereum gausapatum</i>	Bleeding Oak Crust	On oak	conf. JSW
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust	On fallen birch	conf. DN

Ascomycetes, smuts, rusts, etc.			
<i>Ascocoryne sarcoides</i>	Purple Jellydisc	On rotting wood	conf. DC
<i>Bisporella citrina</i>	Lemon Disco	On rotting branch of deciduous tree	conf. JSW
<i>Chlorociboria aeruginescens</i>	Green Elfcup	On rotting wood	conf. JSW
<i>Lycogala terrestris</i>	Wolf's Milk	Slime mould on stump	conf. DC
<i>Nectria cinnabarina</i>	Coral Spot	On twig	conf. KR
<i>Otidea onotica</i>	Hare's Ear	On ground	conf. SG
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	Candlesnuff Fungus	On stump	conf. KR

Everdon Stubbs, 29 October 2023.

Everdon Stubbs is an ancient woodland with mainly Sweet Chestnut and Hazel. It is managed as a coppice by the Woodland Trust. Upon arrival the small parking area was already full and very busy. It took us a while to park as we had to wait for spaces. The initial safety briefing looked to come short of the usual standard as somebody ended up with a false scorpion on his arm. It was not possible to visit High Wood in the afternoon due to poor ground conditions in the access track. On the other hand, wet conditions ensured a good selection of fungi in the first planned site. Specimens were sent to the iNaturalist Mycoblitz Europe scheme for 2023 for sequencing free of charge.



Mycena rosea, Rosy Bonnet. Aptly named due to its refreshing rose pink colouring.

We are still waiting confirmation of some of the identifications.
 Forayers: ADA, DC, DP, FV, JP, JR, JW, KR, LD, LL, PP, SG & TC
 Species list – 47 species

Basidiomycetes			
<i>Agaricus langei</i>	Scaly Wood Mushroom	On soil under Acer	conf. DC
<i>Amanita citrina</i>	False Death Cap	On soil under Castanea	conf. FV
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric	On soil under Betula	conf. DC
<i>Armillaria gallica</i>	Bulbous Honey Fungus	On fallen tree trunk	conf. KR
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Wood Ear	On fallen branch	conf. SG
<i>Auricularia mesenterica</i>	Tripe Fungus	On fallen tree trunk	conf. JP
<i>Clitocybe nebularis</i>	Clouded Agaric	On soil under Quercus	conf. DC
<i>Clitocybe odora</i>	Aniseed Funnel	On soil under Acer and Rubus	conf. DC
<i>Collybiopsis confluens</i>	Clustered Toughshank	On leaf litter under Betula	conf. FV
<i>Conocybe rugosa</i>	Common Conecap	On soil among grass and fern	conf. FV
<i>Cortinarius sp</i>		On soil under Betula	conf. FV
<i>Crepidotus cesatii</i>	Roundspored Oysterling	On fallen branch	conf. FV
<i>Cudoniella acicularis</i>	Oak Pin	On fallen Quercus trunk	conf. DC
<i>Delicatula integrella</i>		On Acer trunk with moss	conf. FV
<i>Entoloma chalybaeum</i> var. <i>lazulimum</i>	Indigo Pinkgill	On soil among grass	conf. FV
<i>Fomitopsis betulina</i>	Birch Polypore	On fallen Betula trunk	conf. JP
<i>Hebeloma crustuliniforme</i>	Poison Pie	On soil under Fagus	conf. FV
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulfur Tuft	On fallen tree trunk	conf. KR

<i>Hypholoma lateritium</i>	Brick Tuft Mushroom	On fallen tree trunk	conf. DC
<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>	Amethyst Deceiver	On soil under Corylus	conf. DC
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	The Deceiver	On soil under Betula	conf. KR
<i>Lactarius turpis</i>	Ugly Milkcap	On soil under Betula	conf. SG
<i>Lycoperdon excipuliforme</i>	Pestle Puffball	On soil under Betula	conf. KR
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	Common Puffball	On leaf litter under Acer	conf. FV
<i>Macrolepiota mastoidea</i>	Slender Parasol	On soil under Quercus	conf. DC
<i>Macrolepiota procera</i>	Parasol	On soil under Corylus	conf. FV
<i>Macrolepiota rhacodes</i>	Shaggy Parasol	On soil under Quercus	conf. DC
<i>Mutinus caninus</i>	Dog Stinkhorn		
<i>Mycena leptcephala</i>	Nitrous Bonnet	On fallen tree trunk	conf. FV
<i>Mycena metata</i>		On vegetable debris	conf. FV
<i>Mycena pura</i>	Lilac Bonnet	On leaf litter under Quercus	conf. DC
<i>Mycena rosea</i>	Rosy Bonnet	On leaf litter under Betula	conf. FV.
<i>Owingsia umbellifera</i>	Leaf Parachute	On twig under Corylus	conf. FV
<i>Paralepista flacida</i>	Tawny Funnel	On soil under Corylus	conf. KR
<i>Phallus impudicus</i>	Stink Horn	On soil under Acer	conf. KR
<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	Deer Shield	On fallen branch	conf. FV
<i>Pseudoboletus parasiticus</i>	Boletus Parasiticus	On Scleroderma fruiting body	conf. KR
<i>Rhodocollybia butyracea</i>	Butter Cap	On leaf litter under Quercus	conf. FV
<i>Rhodocollybia maculata</i>	Spotted Toughshank	On soil under Acer	conf. DC
<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Ochre Brittelgill	On soil under Castanea	conf. DC
<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>	Common Earthball	On soil under Castanea	conf. KR
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust	On fallen tree trunk	conf. FV
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkey Tail	On fallen tree trunk	conf. FV



Xylaria polymorpha,
Dead Man's Fingers
fungus.



Daldinia concentrica,
King Alfreds Cakes.
Inside flesh contains
striking black and white
concentric rings.



Clitocybe odora, Aniseed
Funnel.

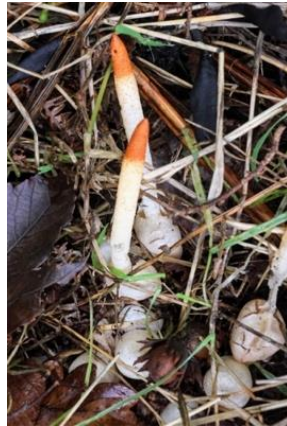


Cudoniella acicularis, Oak
Pin.

Ascomycetes, smuts, rusts, etc.			
<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	King Alfred's Cakes	On fallen tree trunk	conf. DC
<i>Hypomyces chrysospermus</i>	Bolete Eater	On bolete fruiting body	conf. DC
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Sycamore Tar-spot	On Acer leaf	conf. JP
<i>Xylaria polymorpha</i>	Dead Man's Fingers	On rotting wood	conf. FV



Delicatulla integrella, Its name pertains to its small and delicate form.



Mutinus caninus, Dog Stinkhorn. Two mature Specimens nested in grass litter alongside 'eggs' containing immature Dog Stinkhorns. Picture by David Parker (DP)

Barn End Meadow and woodland, Knowle, 5 November 2023.

Forayers: AD, AS, CH, DG, EF, EL, FV, HL, JH, JSW, SG, SW, TK.

Before the foray to her two small meadows and area of oak woodland, Liz Brace was worried that there wouldn't be enough to see. The meadows, which in the past had produced many different waxcaps, only produced Parrot Waxcap and a very small yellow species that was unidentified. The woodland and garden, however, were very rich with four *Russula* and three *Lactarius* species. Some of the more difficult genera were sent away for DNA sequencing which led to two Second British records plus another new county record. This site is worth another visit.



Mycena cicognanii, Sprouting out of leaf litter.

Species list - 65 species

Basidiomycetes			
<i>Agaricus impudicus</i>	Tufted Wood Mushroom	In oak woodland	conf. SG
<i>Agaricus silvaticus</i>	Blushing Wood Mushroom		
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric	Under Birch	conf. JSW
<i>Arbortiporus biennis</i>	Blushing Rosette	Meadow	conf. FV
<i>Armillaria gallica</i>	Bulbous Honey Fungus	Meadow	conf. FV
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Jelly Ear	On fallen branch	conf. SW
<i>Chalciporus piperatus</i>	Peppery Bolete	Under Birch	conf. FV

<i>Clavulina cinerea</i>	Grey Coral	Oak Woodland	conf. FV
<i>Clavulina coralloides</i>	Crested Coral	Oak Woodland	conf. FV
<i>Clavulinopsis luteoalba</i>	Apricot Club	Meadow	conf. JSW, spores ellipsoid
<i>Clitocybe nebularis</i>	Clouded Funnel	Oak woodland	conf. FV
<i>Cortinarius desertorum</i>			conf. DNA
<i>Cortinarius umbinolens</i>	Umber Webcap		conf. DNA
<i>Crepidotus cesatii</i>	Roundspored Oysterling	On twig in oak woodland	conf. FV
<i>Dacrymyces stillatus</i>	Common Jellyspot	On wood	conf. TK
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing Bracket	Old oak logs	conf. JSW
<i>Exidia nucleata</i>	Crystal Brain	On wood	conf. TK
<i>Exidia thuretiana</i>	White Brain	On fallen branch	conf. SW
<i>Flammulina velutipes</i>	Velvet Shank	On wood	conf. FV
<i>Hygrocybe psittacina</i>	Parrot Waxcap	Meadow	conf. EL
<i>Hygrophoropsis aurantiacus</i>	False Chanterelle	Under pine tree	conf. FV
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	Oak woodland	conf. JSW
<i>Inocybe gaiano</i>			Conf. DNA
<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>	Amethyst Deceiver	Oak woodland	conf. FV
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	The Deceiver	Oak woodland	conf. FV
<i>Lactarius deterrimus</i>	False Saffron Milkcap	Under Pine	conf. FV
<i>Lactarius quietus</i>	Oakbug Milkcap	Oak woodland	conf. FV
<i>Lactarius turpis</i>	Ugly Milkcap	Oak woodland	conf. FV
<i>Lepista nuda</i>	Wood Blewit	Oak woodland	conf. FV
<i>Lycoperdon pyriforme</i>	Stump Puffball	On stump	conf. JSW
<i>Macrotyphula juncea</i>	Slender Club	Meadow	conf. JSW
<i>Mycena cicognanii</i>		In leaf litter	Conf. DNA
<i>Mycena olida</i>	Rancid Bonnet	Meadow	Conf. DNA
<i>Mycena aetites</i>	Drab Bonnet	Meadow	conf. DNA
<i>Mycena arcangeliana</i>	Angel's Bonnet	On wood	conf. DNA
<i>Mycena filopes</i>	Iodine Bonnet		conf. SG
<i>Mycena polygramma</i>	Grooved Bonnet	Oak woodland	conf. FV
<i>Mycena pura</i>	Lilac Bonnet	Oak woodland	conf. FV
<i>Mycena rosea</i>	Rosy Bonnet	Oak woodland	conf. FV
<i>Panellus stipticus</i>	Bitter Oysterling	On wood	conf. FV
<i>Parasola conopilea</i>	Conical Brittlestem	Meadow	confirmed by DNA
<i>Paxillus involutus</i>	Brown Roll-Rim	Under birch	conf. TK
<i>Podoscypha multizonata</i>	Zoned Rosette	Base of oak tree	conf. FV
<i>Postia stiptica</i>	Bitter Bracket	On deciduous log.	conf. FV
<i>Rhodocollybia (Collybia) butyracea</i>	Butter cap	On soil in oak woodland	conf. FV
<i>Russula atropurpurea</i>	Purple Brittlegill	Oak woodland	conf. FV and SG
<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Ochre Brittlegill	Oak woodland	conf. DG
<i>Russula sanguinaria</i>	Blood Brittlegill	Under pine	conf. SG

<i>Russula vesca</i>	The Flirt	Oak woodland and under pine in garden	conf. JSW
<i>Schizopora paradoxa</i>	Split Porecrust	On wood+C23	conf. DG
<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>	Common Earthball	Oak woodland	conf. JSW
<i>Scleroderma verrucosum</i>	Scaly Earthball	Oak woodland	conf. DG
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust	Oak woodland	conf. JSW
<i>Stereum rameale</i>		Oak twig	conf. FV
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkey Tail	On fallen branch	conf. JSW



Flammulina velutipes,
Velvet Shank.



Mycena arcangeliana,
Angels Bonnet.



Mycena olida.

Ascomycetes, smuts, rusts, etc.			
<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	Cramp Balls	On stump	conf. TK
<i>Hypoxylon fuscum</i>	Hazel Woodwart	Hazel branch	conf. FV
<i>Nectria cinnabarina</i>	Coral Spot	On twig	conf. SW
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Sycamore Tar-spot	On Sycamore leaves	conf. DG
<i>Trochila ilicina</i>	Holly Speckle	On holly leaves	conf. DG
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	Candlesnuff	On stump	conf. EL



Class: *Myxomycetes*.
Unidentified true
slime mold, not a
fungus but a
welcomed inclusion
all the same.



Cortinarius umbrinolens.



*Cortinarius
desertorum*.

The foray on 19 November at **Burton Dassett Hills** was cancelled as high winds and rain were forecast. The last two forays of the season to **Kingsbury Water Park** (3 December) and **Snitterfield Bushes** (17 December) were also cancelled as the season had ended and there was very little to see.

A few Fungal notes – John Walton

I live close to the Leicestershire border and have been a member of the Leicestershire Fungus Study Group for the last three years. Many of their forays are in the area of Charnwood Forest and getting there by the M42 is far easier than travelling to Kenilworth and Warwick. This year, as many of their outdoor meetings were on Saturdays, we did not attend any of them, but on the 9th and 10th September, I went on a Microscopy course at the Rutland Water Volunteer Centre. There was about a dozen participants with a selection of high-powered equipment including an ecologist from Nottingham University with a microscope with a built-in computer screen that was much admired. The first morning the group visited some of the secondary woodland around the centre looking for specimens to work on but few species were seen.

After a brief introduction we spent the afternoon learning the correct way to cut gills to produce good slides of cheilocystidia, looking at cap cuticles, basidia and spore ornamentation. Perhaps the BMS should produce a set of exercises to loosen our aching necks after hours crouched over a microscope. The course was funded by a bequest from local mycologist Tom Hering's estate and given by Carol Hobart of the BMS. Many of us found it difficult to interpret what we were seeing through the lens, but I assume this will improve with practice and experience.

Some of you may remember that we were planning to visit Packington Park, a huge area of parkland with acid grassland and veteran trees just off the A45 near Colehill. The Flora Group had visited some of the wilder areas of the park in 2022, but unfortunately our previous contact from the Wildlife Trust had changed jobs a few months before our visit and so this did not go ahead. Unbeknown to us, Lukas Large of the West Midland Fungus Group had gone straight to the estate manager asking for access and in November he invited Dave Champion and myself to Packington Hall for a foray. The Birmingham Museum Service, where Lukas works, was planning a project on the life and botanical drawings of Louisa Finch, the Countess of Aylesford who lived at Packington in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Lukas and his colleague discussed their plans with the current resident, Lady Guernsey, over tea in the kitchen, and a selection of large leather-bound books of drawings of plants and fungi by the Countess of Aylesford were fetched from the library. The real stars of the trip though were the fungi growing in the grassland just behind the hall. We saw a large number of species, including some of the largest Parasols David had ever seen and if Lukas is planning another trip next year I would love to be invited again.

Browsing your copy of Paul Sterry's book or just fiddling about on the web, have you often wondered why you never see any of those wonderful tooth fungi in the genera *Hydnellum* and *Sarcodon* in Warwickshire? As many of these are limited in distribution to the Caledonian Pinewoods of Scotland, we thought it was about time we made a pilgrimage to Speyside to see if we could find some. Unfortunately, the fungal season in Scotland was just as bad as it was here. We were hoping for lots of *Russula*, *Ramaria* and *Lactarius* species underneath the pines and we saw very little other than a few "little brown jobs". We spent an enjoyable week seeing the gems of Scottish wildlife (we missed the Scottish Crossbill) and finding many plants that we hadn't seen for many years, but we returned home with just one fungal speciality. Growing in sand near the base of a pine stump was this Orange Tooth *Hydnellum aurantiacum* from the fantastic Culbin Forest in Morayshire. Never mind, we will have to go again.



Hydnellum aurantiacum – Orange Tooth. Photo by John Walton

WFG starring in the BMS's Field Mycology

Volume 25 of the British mycological society's (BMS) magazine 'Field Mycology' starred an article written by group member Francisco Verenciano 'Gerhardtia cf. borealis a species new to Britain'. The Warwickshire fungus group's (WFG) contribution through finding this new to Britain species amongst other uncommon species was highlighted alongside a detailed description of the articles star *G.borealis*. If you're interested in reading this article you may subscribe to the magazine through the BMS website.

This year's Notable species

This year we saw a steep rise in species new to county compared with previous years, mostly thanks to our ability to sequence samples complementing microscopy providing a much more reliable identification overall. This is a great achievement for the group and greatly amplifies our ability to contribute to the field. In 2023 we have identified 17 species New to county and 2 New to Britain! Special thanks to, Di Napier, Francisco Verenciano, Dave Champion, Nick Wood, Stuart Macdonald, Stephen Briggs and the Warwickshire fungus group for their contributions.

2023

- ***Gymnopus ocior***. Spring Toughshank. Francisco Verenciano. SP368718. Bubbenhall Wood. 1/5/23. (New to County).
- ***Botrytis paeoniae***. Di Napier. SP337509. Private garden. Banbury Street. 14/5/23. (New to County).
- ***Gerhardtia cf. borealis***. Francisco Verenciano Dave Champion. SP383765. Brandon Reach. 21/7/23. (New to Britain). Sequenced.
- ***Leucocoprinus ianthinus***. Di Napier. SP336509. Indoor plant pot. Banbury Street. 4/8/23. (New to County). Sequenced.

- ***Xerocomus chrysonemus***. Golden Thread Bolete. Dave Champion. SP38827713. Piles Coppice. 18/8/23.(New to County).
- ***Elaphomyces muricatus***. Marbled False Truffle. Francisco Verenciano. SP304755. Tocil Wood. 2/9/23. (New to County).
- ***Gymnopilus dilepis***. Magenta Rustgill. Stephen Briggs. SK251036. Alvecote Wood. 16/9/23. (New to County) (No official records in databases, although reported previously by DC & JSW)
- ***Chlorencoelia versiformis***. Flea's Ear. Dave Champion. SP316531. Compton Verney. 24/9/23. (New to County).
- ***Simocybe centunculus***. Dingy Twiglet. Tim Knight. SP316531. Compton Verney. 24/9/23. (New to County). Sequenced.
- ***Hortiboletus engelii***. Francisco Verenciano. SP33167410. Finham Sewage Works. 29/9/23. (New to County). Sequenced.
- ***Agrocybe vervacti***. Di Napier. SP338509. Private garden. Banbury Street. 3/10/23. (New to County).Sequenced.
- ***Pluteus CN22***. Di Napier. SP368480. St Peter's churchyard. 4/10/23. **(New to Britain)**. Sequenced.
- ***Entoloma incarnatofuscences***. Di Napier. SP336509. Private garden. Banbury Street. 6/10/23. (New to County). Sequenced.
- ***Cortinarius geraniolens***. Nick Wood. SP20297541. Cuttle Pool. 9/10/23. (New to County).Sequenced.
- ***Epibryon muscicola***. Di Napier. SP337509. Private garden. Banbury Street. 14/10/23. (New to County).
- ***Mycena cicognanii***. Warwickshire Fungus Group. SP182753. Barn End Meadow. 5/11/23. (New to County) **(Second UK record)**. Sequenced.
- ***Inocybe gaiana***. Warwickshire Fungus Group. SP182753. Barn End Meadow. 5/11/23. (New to County) **(Second UK record)**. Sequenced.
- ***Cortinarius desertorum***. Warwickshire Fungus Group. SP182753. Barn End Meadow. 5/11/23. (New to county) **(Fourth UK record)**. Sequenced.
- ***Galerina variibasidia*** (Formerly mistaken as ***Galerina vittiformis***. Hairy Leg Bell.) Nick Wood. Identification corrected by Javier Marcos Martinez and Martyn Ainsworth SP20377539. Cuttle Pool. 9/11/23. **(New to Britain and Europe)**. Sequenced.
- ***Hericium coralloides***. Coral Tooth. Stuart MacDonald. Newman's Plantation. 18/11/23. **(Protected)**



Hericium coralloides
Coral Tooth – photos
taken by Stuart
MacDonald.

Appendix

1.

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