

## *Arrhenia rickenii* (Singer ex Hora) Watling, at Upper Arley, Worcestershire

DENISE BINGHAM

This was discovered on the parapet of the road bridge, not the usual place to find a fungus but typical for *Arrhenia rickenii*, formally called *Omphalina rickenii*. It was found on a WFSG outing on 14th January 2017 by Denise Bingham on the bridge over the stream near Home Farm, Upper Arley. The location is in Staffordshire vice county and appears to be a new county record. (BMS 2017).

This tiny fungus grows with mosses on more alkaline soils, so Wyre Forest is not ideal habitat. Here it occurs on old lime-rich walls of the old bridge that is made from local sandstone. Over a dozen small fruit bodies were found scattered within mosses along the top walls. The fungus is rarely recorded, so an unusual find.

### Reference

BMS (2017). The checklist of fungi of the British Isles. Database, accessed Dec 2017. <http://www.fieldmycology.net/FRDBI/FRDBIrecord.asp?intGBNum=3374>



*Arrhenia rickenii*, 14 January 2017

John Bingham

## *Marasmius epiphyllodes* (Rea) Sacc. & Trotter. Ivy Parachute Fungus - an overlooked species locally?

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This small member of the *Marasmius* group of fungi is specific to the host plant, only occurring on decaying Ivy (*Hedera helix*) leaves. There are few records for this fungus locally, perhaps because it is quite small, the cap being about 3mm across and the thin stem 10mm long. Also it tends to occur very late in the season, typically in early winter, so is often missed by autumnal fungus forayers. It was first reported in 1911 in West

Mayo, Ireland as a new British species by Carleton Rea, (Rea 1911) and he also reported it from Wyre Forest on a list published in 1924. (Rea 1924). Apparently no records have been made from Wyre since then.

Two sites for *Marasmius epiphyllodes* were found in 2017, firstly on 28 November at Longdon Orchard on a bank of a trackway with sparse ground cover of ivy. This appears to be only the second record for Shropshire. (Mantle 2011). On the Worcestershire side of the Forest it was found near Goodmoor Grange, Far Forest, along an old sunken lane on 4th December 2017. Rea's note suggests that it was rare at the turn of the 19th century. The fungus is probably not that uncommon if searched for at the right time of year, and more astute recorders such as the late Malcolm Clark recorded it quite often from Warwickshire (Clark 1980). In sheltered locations where ivy occurs look for small white caps nearly hidden in decaying ivy leaves.



*Marasmius epiphyllodes*

John Bingham

### References

- Clark, M. C. (Ed). (1980) A Fungus Flora of Warwickshire. Birmingham Natural History Society.
- Mantle, R. (2011). The Checklist of Shropshire Fungi 2011. Shropshire Fungus Group.
- Rea, C. 1911. New and rare British fungi. Transactions of the British Mycological Society. 3:285-290
- Rea, C. (1924) The Fungi of Wyre Forest Transactions of the Worcestershire Naturalists Club Vol VIII, 1923-1931 pages 16-40.