



**MYFG
NEWS
DECEMBER
2010**

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MID-YORKSHIRE
FUNGUS GROUP.**

RECORDING THE FUNGI OF YORKSHIRE

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Front Cover Picture
Mycena epipterygia
- Val Vareita, Italy

Next Newsletter
due out March 12
2011

The BMS International Foray 2010

Sampeyre - Val Varaita - Italy

Cuneo is reportedly the most prosperous region of Italy. As we drove into the valley from the east there was a sign which said (translated) "Welcome to Val Varaita - home of the mushroom and the chestnut". As it proved to be. Enormous woods of *Castanea sativa* (agg) on steep slopes rising from a river valley with the stream rushing down from the slopes of the 2,744 metre pass at the far end towards France and Monte Viso. A lovely hotel, apparently run by friends of the mayor, above the village of Sampeyre with a huge basement room full of mycologists [from 5 countries] and fungi.

Day 1 Pian SanPietro. A drive up a winding country road through meadows and woods brings us out to a sunny picnic spot high above the valley. The area looked rather dry and unpromising, sparse oak and chestnut with grassy bracken-strewn undergrowth. In fact a steady series of fungi started to appear, I myself picking up 30 or so, mostly familiar species but a couple of nice *Cortinarius* - *C. triumphans* and the incredibly smelly *C. camphoratus* - were pleasing, after other members had explained them to me.....

Day 2 Raffana . A chestnut wood above a steep grass slope next to a farmhouse. Pollarded trees 5 metres high stand like giants along the boundary and higher up a mixed wood with much Spruce. Again a happy hunting ground for *Cortinarius* - *multiformis*, *triumphans*, *hinnuleus*, more stinking *camphoratus*, allegedly reeking of burnt goat horn or rampant hair curlers. Other features : *Lactarius uvidus*, *Lactarius luridus*, *Ramaria botrytis*, *Suillus tridentinus*. We also visited the [allegedly] world's largest Chestnut tree at Melle - where we found *Cyphellostereum laeve* on the Polytrichum mosses of the path walls.

Day 3 Bocetta. A day shortened by an incredible shower of heavy rain and a rather splendid lunch in a mountain hut. Another hillside site, this time with a more mixed flora of plants produced a smaller number of species not however lacking in quality - *Hygrophorus lucorum*, *Hygrophorus queletii*, *Lactarius porninsis* were some of the better finds - common in Italy but not at home. Denise picked up



PONTECHIANALE



ASTRAEUS
HYGROMETRICUS

Spathularia flavida which I had last seen on the YNU foray at Hades this year, also under spruce.

Day 4 Rossana. The day of the market and the fungus exhibition -and the free lunch! Actually not really free - it was in with the hotel - but we did get priority in the lunch queue. As for the exhibition, well it was rather larger than Harlow Carr but then the [as it were] catchment area was all these beautiful chestnut woods. The market stretched along both sides of the half-mile long main street and included huge garlic stalls and mountains of 'Porcini' at 15€ a punnet and a large (sold) *Grifola frondosa*. We tramped uphill to the local castle, picking up a few fungi on the way, I found *Spinellis fusiger* on a *Mycena* [first time on a euro-foray] and *Cortinarius trivialis*, which was nice.

Day 5 Fondovet. I have a list for this place, situated high above the central valley up another improbable road, but the thing I remember most clearly was the hottest *Lactarius* that has ever burned my mouth. *L. hysginus* is off-white or darker in colour, rather viscid and once you have tasted it you won't forget it; my tongue still felt sore the following day. I also turned up another nice *Cortinarius* - *glaucoopus var olivaceous* - and even ID'd it myself.

Day 6 Pontechianale. This is actually a long reservoir lake with an adjacent old town. We were quite high up the valley here and there had been an overnight frost so not much was anticipated, but we should have known that Italian autumn never lets you down, except possibly in variety. Masses of *Mycena* [- *M pura*, *M epipterygia*, *M abramsii*, *M galericulata*] scattered amongst oak and chestnut leaf litter and fallen twigs together with the expected *Clitocybe nebularis* in hundreds. Nice too were the tiny 'lemon-curd-tarts' of *Lachnellula suecica*; this is a group of asco's mostly with elongated-oval spores but *L. suecica* is unique in having round ones. Enid found *Gaeastrum sessile* and *Hygrophorus lucorum*.

Day 7 I had the day off to catch up with specimens from previous days. Enid found *Macrolepiota excoriata* near the hotel.

Day 8. Magic. Firstly a visit to the 'Mushroom Rocks' at **Ciciu del Villar**. (picture). Large boulders of

hard rock remaining on top of columns of softer rock when erosion has removed all but these columns protected by their caps. The narrow passages between the mushrooms were not very productive mycologically - *Cyathus striatus*, *Sphaerobolus stellatus* on a rotten log and the almost ubiquitous *Hygrophorus lucorum*. In the afternoon, quite a number of the party had elected to go truffle hunting; this involved a 3-hour drive each way ..so many elected instead to visit the **Castagnetto del Frutto at Cervasa**. I have to say that we made the right decision. This is an absolutely splendid and very large privately owned Sweet Chestnut woodland behind the owner's house [and his completely organic garden, growing splendid crops entirely without recourse to anything but his own compost]. The chestnut is a crop of considerable local importance; historically they



LACTARIUS
UVIDUS

were dried and ground for flour, supplying Rome with this product [wheat being a much later food] and nowadays it is still used, though not always for bread. Well we had a lovely afternoon in the woods, collecting masses of fungi - I myself had a list of 40 but that was exceeded by nearly everybody else. Prime finds - *Boletus pulverulentus*; *Astraeus hygrometricus* and *Coltrichia perennis* from a bonfire site; *Psilocybe crobula*; *Cortinarius hinnulus*, *C duracinus* and the splendidly hairy *C humicola*. And this was not all. We returned to the house and were treated to a delicious outdoor snack - more like a small meal - under the shade of a grape vine. The piece de resistance was a delightful cake made from chestnut flour and filled with a puree of chestnut, honey and local ceps.

Last Day. I again took the day off looking at specimens but Enid chose to accompany the rest of the team up to the top of the valley, coming back with a nice collection including *Tremiscus helvelloides*, *Gastrum fornicatum*, more *Lachnellula suecica* [which seems to be the dominant form in this valley] and in my book the find of the foray - *Gomphidius gracilis*, which I identified in the very last minutes of the



foray while everybody else was packing up. This species is distinguished by having HUGE cystidia, almost visible with a hand lens.

The End of a splendid nine days and I haven't mentioned the food, which included the usual two-hour lunch and an evening dinner enlightened by the singing of our Italian and Chinese[!] friends. Lots of species new to me, lots of good advice. And that is why I go on BMS Forays.

Wasn't it expensive? Well maybe compared to a week at Benidorm - but it was nine days, cheaper than a week ski-ing and introducing us to a previously unvisited area of Italy. Driving back over the Col d'Agnello at 2744 metres was another highlight, a panorama of peaks rising from completely cloud-filled valleys.

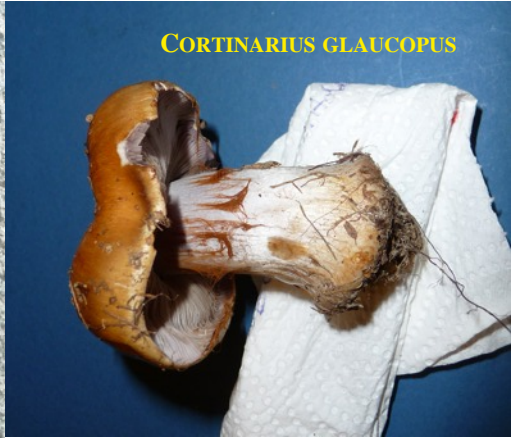
As I said - **Magic!**

Alan Braddock





CORTINARIUS HUMICOLA

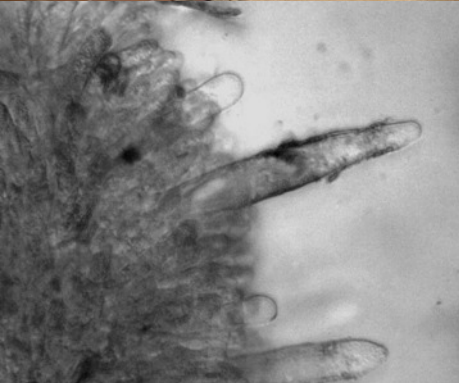


CORTINARIUS GLAUCOPUS



More from the
BMS
international
Foray 2010

Fungus
exhibition at
Rossana

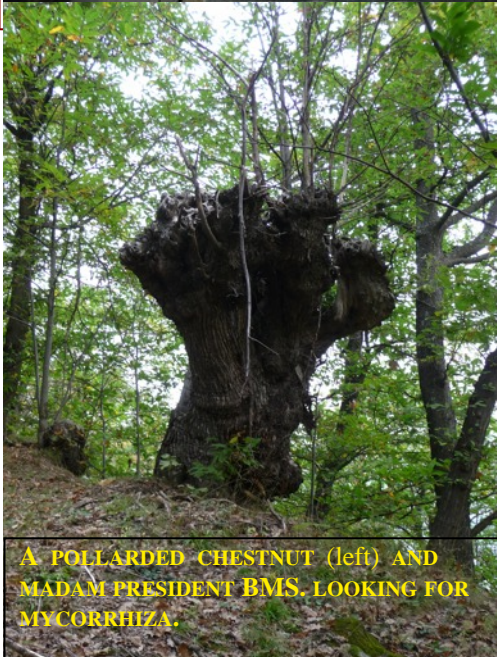


GOMPHIDIUS GRACILIS
+ CYSTIDIA >120 μ M

LUNCH. ALL HOME PRODUCE. FIGS, HAM, CHESTNUTS, TOMATO, GRAPES, BREAD . . AND QUITE A CAKE.



CASA FALCO



A POLLARDED CHESTNUT (left) AND MADAM PRESIDENT BMS. LOOKING FOR MYCORRHIZA.



WHAT TO DO IN THE WINTER

Yes, well it gets cold and the fungal population shuts down for a while. But not all of it. Some things just don't seem to care and in the early months of the year several species, not all inconspicuous ones, still manage to put on a show..

The classic winter fungus is of course *Flammulina velutipes*, quite common on old wood, even in really frosty weather. Another is *Sarcoscypha austriaca* which brightens up many an old wet log in conditions often seeming more suitable for frogs than fungi. Dead branches of Sycamore will often display large groups of *Nectria* species - not just *N cinnabarina* but the smaller *N episphaeria* growing on the black pyrenomycete *Diatrype stigma*.

Pyreno's, by the way, also persist through the cold weather and can be identified by finding

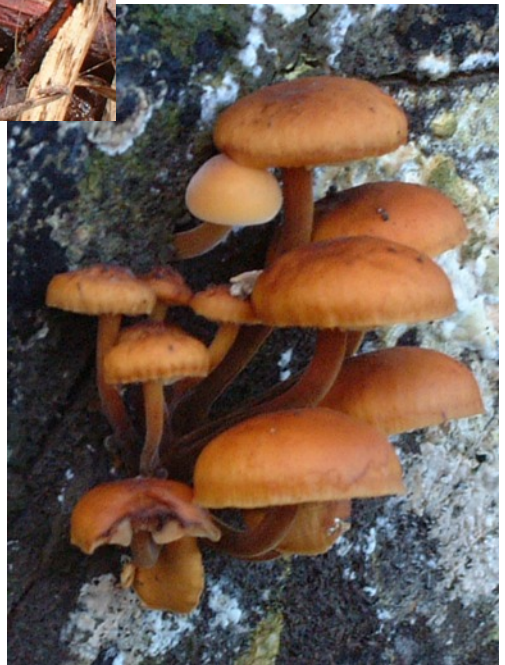
the spores. Another good place to look is on dead standing hazel and alder branches, where you can often find the cups of *Encoelia furfuracea* emerging from the bark beside old *Diatrype disciformis* fruit-bodies. Old nettle stems are a good place to hunt for small ascomycetes - *Calloria neglecta*, *Acrospermum compressum*, the ubiquitous *Leptosphaeria acuta* and many other tiny enti-



ties. Should you not have the invaluable 'Microfungi on Land Plants' by Martin Ellis a good source of information on these fungi is the 'Wild About Britain' website where several forums have expert mycologists (including Chris Yeates, the Yorkshire Recorder) contributing expert advice.

Other things to look at are the lichens - half fungus half alga - which come into their own in the damp and cold and here again there are experts close to home (see the YNU website) who are very happy to share their knowledge.

And you can always sit at home cataloguing your pictures and writing articles for MYFG NEWS. There is plenty to do in the winter!



Return to Fleet Hill

Fleet Hill Plantation, near Swillington, was the venue for the very first 'official' MYFG foray - 23rd April 1994. It is a disused colliery tip, planted with a variety of trees and bushes selected to improve the quality of the soil, 'Soil' in this case being rather a misnomer, consisting of about an inch of loam and after that - coal residue. Nevertheless, a few things condescended to appear, principally small fungi of one kind or other identified by the late Fred Remblance. Subsequently the site was selected by MYFG as being a good place for a series of visits with a view to finding out what happened over a long period of time. Well, enthusiasm dwindled after that first year but we still have an all-time list of 247 species, a few of which (in the early days, not too many) may perhaps have been a product of enthusiastic vision on my part.

A few interesting finds during the intervening period:-

17-9-1994. In the most Northerly part of the site, on sparse soil under birch, in an area of about 4 square yards.

Paxillus involutus -107: *Lactarius rufus* - 995: *Russula atropurpurea* - 405
Still about the largest 'flush' I have ever seen.

1996. *Mycena olivaceomarginata*, the only one with coloured gill edges which occurs mainly in grass, seems to like it here.

28-8-1997. *Agrocybe arvalis*. With a sclerotium - unmistakable - but showing the need to excavate specimens right down to the point of attachment.

On the 6th of November 2010 MYFG returned to the scene of the crime and provisionally found 45 species, of which eleven were 'new to site', showing the value of repeated visits. *Collybia cirrhata* often turned up initially due to the presence of many decaying *Lactarius*., it was gratifying to find it again this year.



COLLYBIA CIRRHATA

Fleet Hill all-time list.

Agaricus arvensis,1994
 Agaricus campestris,1996
 Agaricus silvaticus,1994
 Agaricus silvicola,1997
 Agrocybe arvalis,1997
 Albugo tragopogonis,1994
 Amanita citrina,1996
 Amanita muscaria,1994
 Amanita rubescens,2000
 Amanita umbrinolutea,1996
 Aphanocladium album,1994
 Apiocrea chrysosperma,1997
 Arcyria denudata,1997
 Armillaria tabescens,1994
 Auricularia auricula-judae,1994
 Botryobasidium candicans,1994
 Bovista nigrescens,1997
 Bovista plumbea,1994
 Calloria neglecta,1994
 Calocera cornea,1994
 Calocera pallidospathulata,1997
 Calocybe carnea,1997
 Calocybe gambosa,1994
 Calvatia excipuliformis,1998
 Ceriporia excelsa,1997
 Cerocorticium confluens,1994
 Chalciaporus piperatus 2010
 Clavaria argillacea 2010
 Clitocybe candicans,1994
 Clitocybe clavipes,1994
 Clitocybe dealbata,1996
 Clitocybe decembris,2008
 Clitocybe ditopa,1999
 Clitocybe fragrans,1997
 Clitocybe gibba,1997
 Clitocybe metachroa,1998
 Clitocybe nebularis,2008
 Clitocybe odora,2000
 Clitocybe phyllophila,1998
 Clitocybe rivulosa,1996
 Clitocybe vibecina 2010
 Coleosporium tussilaginis,1994
 Collybia butyracea,1996
 Collybia cirrhata,1998
 Collybia confluens,1997
 Collybia dryophila,1998
 Collybia maculata,1994
 Collybia peronata,1994
 Comatricha nigra,1994
 Conocybe tenera,1997
 Coprinus comatus,1998
 Coprinus micaceus,1996
 Cortinarius anomalus,1994
 Cortinarius armillatus,1994
 Cortinarius betuletorum,1994
 Cortinarius decipiens,1996
 Cortinarius hemitrichus,1998
 Cortinarius paleaceus,1997
 Crepidotus variabilis,1997
 Cystoderma amianthinum,1998
 Dacrymyces capitatus,1994
 Dacrymyces stillatus,1997
 Daldinia concentrica,1994
 Darluca filum,1997
 Dasyscyphus acuuum,1994
 Dasyscyphus carneolus var.
 longisporus,1994
 Dasyscyphus virgineus,1994
 Entoloma leptonipes,1994
 Entoloma sericeum,1996
 Erysiphe galeopsidis,1994
 Erysiphe artemisiae,1997
 Erysiphe cichoracearum,1994
 Erysiphe cruciferarum,1996
 Erysiphe heraclei,1997
 Erysiphe polygoni,1997
 Erysiphe sordida,1996
 Erysiphe trifolii,1994
 Exidiopsis effusa,1994
 Galerina mniophila,1998
 Galerina pumila,1997
 Galerina vittiformis,1997
 Geoglossum fallax 2010
 Hebeloma crustuliniforme,1998
 Hebeloma mesophaeum,1996
 Hebeloma sinapizans,1994
 Helvella crispa,1994
 Hemimycena lactea,1994

Hyaloscypha hyalina,1997
Hygrocybe conica,1994
Hygrocybe pratensis,1996
Hygrocybe psittacina,1994
Hygrocybe virginea,2000
Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca,1998
Hymenoscyphus herbarum,1994
Hypholoma sublateritium,1994
Hypoxylon fragiforme,1994
Inocybe eutheles,1994
Inocybe geophylla,1994
Inocybe geraniolens,1996
Inocybe griseolilacina,1994
Inocybe lacera,1994
Inocybe lanuginella,1996
Inocybe napipes,1994
Laccaria amethystina,1998
Laccaria laccata,1998
Lacrymaria velutina,1994
Lactarius deliciosus,1994
Lactarius glycosmus,1996
Lactarius pallidus,1994
Lactarius pubescens,1998
Lactarius quietus,1997
Lactarius rufus,1998
Lactarius subdulcis,1994
Lactarius torminosus,1996
Lactarius turpis,1998
Lactarius vellereus,1994
Leccinum scabrum,1998
Leccinum varicolor 2010
Leccinum versipelle,1996
Lepista inversa,1996
Lepista nuda,1996
Leptosphaeria acuta,1994
Lophiostoma caulium,1994
Lycogala terrestre,1997
Lycoperdon foetidum,1996
Lycoperdon perlatum,1998
Lycoperdon pyriforme,1996
Marasmius androsaceus,1996
Marasmius epiphyllus,1996
Marasmius oreades,1997
Marasmius recubans 2010
Megalocystidium lactescens,1994
Melampsora caprearum,1994
Melampsoridium betulinum,1994



THELEPHORA TERRESTRIS

Meruliopsis corium,1994
Microsphaera alphitoides,1997
Microsphaera trifolii,1997
Miyagia pseudosphaeria,1994
Mollisia cinerea,1994
Mucilago crustacea,1996
Mycena acicula,1994
Mycena aetites,1994
Mycena capillaripes,1994
Mycena filopes,1998
Mycena galericulata,1994
Mycena galopus,1994
Mycena leptocephala,1998
Mycena leucogala 2010
Mycena metata,1994
Mycena olivaceomarginata,1996
Mycena oortiana,1998
Mycena pseudocorticola,1994
Mycena rubromarginata,1997
Mycena sanguinolenta,1997
Mycena speirea 2010
Mycena stylobates,1994
Mycena vulgaris,1994
Naucoria escharioides,1994
Nectria cinnabarina,1994
Nolanea sericea,1994
Omphalina postii,1997

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Omphalina pyxidata,1994
Otidea onotica 2010
Panaeolina foenicisecii,1997
Panaeolus ater,1994
Panaeolus fimicola,1994
Panaeolus foenicisecii,1994
Panaeolus rickenii,1998
Panaeolus sphinctrinus,1994
Paxillus involutus,1998
Peniophora quercina,1994
Periconia minutissima,1994
Phellinus igniarius,1998
Phlebia radiata,1994
Phlebia subochracea,1994
Pholiota ochrochlora,1996
Phragmidium violaceum,1998
Physarum confertum,1994
Physarum robustum,2001
Pleospora herbarum,1994
Pluteus cervinus,2000
Polyporus ciliatus,1994
Porphyrellus porphyrosporus,1994
Psathyrella atomata,1997
Psathyrella hydrophila,1994
Psathyrella lacrymabunda,1997
Psathyrella pseudogracilis,2008
Psathyrella spadiceogrisea,1997
Puccinia chaerophylli,1994
Puccinia hieracii,1994
Puccinia poarum,1994
Puccinia pulverulenta,1994
Puccinia punctiformis,1997
Puccinia tumida,1994
Puccinia variabilis,1994
Pyrenopeziza benesuada,1994
Pyrenopeziza plantaginis,1994
Pyrenopeziza revincta,1997
Radulomyces confluens,2000
Rhytisma acerinum,1998
Rickenella fibula,1997
Rickenella swartzii,1994
Russula aeruginea,1996
Russula aquosa,2008
Russula atropurpurea,1998
Russula betularum,1998
Russula cyanoxantha,1994
Russula decipiens,1994
Russula emetica 2010
Russula exalbicans,1997
Russula fragilis,1997
Russula gracillima,1997
Russula graveolens,1994
Russula melliolens,1999
Russula nitida,1997
Russula ochroleuca,1996
Russula pulchella,1997
Russula turci,1994
Russula velenovskyi,1999
Russula versicolor,1997
Russula vesca,1998
Schizopora paradoxa,1997
Scleroderma areolatum,1997
Scleroderma citrinum,1997
Scleroderma verrucosum,1997
Sphaerotheca epilobii,1994
Sphaerotheca fusca,1996
Sphaerotheca pannosa,1994
Spinellus fusiger,1997
Stereum gausapatum,1994
Stereum hirsutum,1998
Strobilurus stephanocystis,1994
Stropharia caerulea,1996
Stropharia semiglobata,1994
Suillus grevillei,1998
Suillus luteus,1997
Taphrina sadebeckii,1994
Thelephora terrestris,1997
Trametes versicolor,1997
Trichoderma hamatum,1994
Tricholoma fulvum,1998
Tricholoma scalpturatum 2010
Tricholoma sulphureum 2010
Tricholomopsis rutilans,1998
Tripodosporium Elegans,1994
Uncinia foliicola,1994
Unguiculella hamulata,1994
Uromyces trifolii,1994
Vascellum pratense,1994
Xerocomus badius,1994
Xylaria hypoxylon,1994

PICTURES FROM THE AUDIENCE:-



Suillus collinitus

from Ilkley. Joan Powell has moved house; those of you who recall her prolific garden fungi will be pleased to discover that her new environment has kept up the tradition. This specimen was from the grass near a pine tree at the end of her new road.

Porphyrellus porphyrosporus

by John Heap - found (of course) in the protected grounds of the British Library, Boston Spa, which has in the past been a good hunting ground for scarcer specimens and is still producing them. Other relative rarities - not this year but in the near past:-

- Entoloma catalunicum
- Entoloma pleopodium
- Cortinarius umbrinolens
- Cortinarius bivelus
- Lepiota oreadiformis
- Mollisia amenticola
- Rutstroemia petiolorum
- Tephroclype tylicolor

Naturally these uncommon species only appear when they are looked for. John keeps a close eye on his patch and we are grateful that now and then we also get the chance to view what is effectively a fungus reserve, despite the efforts of the construction industry.



NEXT YEAR'S EVENTS

The dates of the following fixtures (here in brief detail) are fixed, which is why we call them fixtures. There may be changes in detail - venue, foray leader etc and there may be additional indoor meetings but the calendar will not change.

May 7th Grass Wood.

3rd. September Golden Acre Park

17th September Upton Country Park

25th September Bishop Wood

2nd October Hackfall Wood

8th October Hardcastle Crags NT site.

16th October Fountains Abbey

Harlow Carr Mushroom Day

22nd-23rd. October

6 th November

12th November N. Leeds Churchyards

**FORAYS
START AT 10-30 A.M.**

**INDOOR MEETINGS
START AT 19.30 PROMPT**

March 3rd

April 7th

May 5th (A.G.M.)

September 1st.

October 6th.

November 3rd.

December 1st (Social)

BMS FIELD MEETINGS 2011.

13th to 21st May. **Ascomycete Workshop & Foray**; Stainborough, S. Yorkshire.

10th to 17th September. **Autumn Meeting**; .Based at Exeter University.

24th Sept to 1st October. 3 nights on 'Starting to Identify Fungi' followed by 3 nights 'Identifying Fungi with a Microscope'. Tutored courses in Forest of Dean, bookable separately..

7th to 14th October. 'Upland Foray - Grassland Workshop' at Plas Tan y Bwlch, N. Wales.

16th to 25th November. **Overseas Foray**. Platres, Cyprus.

All the above can be booked via

Carol Hobart, BMS Foray Manager, 84 Stafford Road Sheffield S2 2SF.

Email:- foraymanger@tiscali.co.uk

Or see the BMS Website: <http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/mycology/>

The Head Hogon Speaks

“Since so very few of you have responded to my request for copy, as a punishment I have decided to read you some of my poetry.”

Amanita

**I stand under the beech trees -
We have a clandestine pact, feeding each other.
And I can live forever as silver strands
Under the fallen leaves
Foreseeing no future
Waiting with no intentions.**

**I am white, I am pure, I am innocent
Under the pale green shield
Sanctuary from the rain
I am virginal.
Although my stem is garlanded
with a ragged wedding promise
I will wed no-one
Unlike you, I do not hybridise
I have secrets that prevent this;
I can join only my own kind
Equally immaculate.**

**You may touch
But do not eat me,
I will dissolve your flesh
And I can kill
A whole family of you
I am white, I am pure
I have no intentions
Should you not believe?
Your ignorance will destroy you.
I am innocent
I am death.**

ATB 2010

NEW TO BRITAIN!

It is not often that MYFG get the chance to boast of a discovery like this! It is quite a story, going back to 1987, when a *Lactarius* from Grass Wood was recorded by Derek Reid as *Lactarius aspideus*..[see p 96, *The Genus Lactarius*] This collection was sent to the Kew Herbarium and almost forgotten until finds by Joan Powell on 15th August this year and subsequently by Audrey Gramshaw on 21st September was sent to Pat Andrews of the BMS for determination. The two recent

discoveries were referred to the BMS at Kew. The subsequent letter from Alick Henrici to Pat Andrews appears on the next page. The picture is by Joan Powell - who, as usual, is unnecessarily modest about its quality. The colour is apparently accurate.

These finds illustrate the need to be really determined to be sure of your identification by checking with more experienced mycologists. Don't just chuck it in the bin if you can't figure it out!

Literature:-

'The Genus *Lactarius*'
[Fungi of Northern Europe
Vol 2] - Heilmann-Clausen
et al 1998
'Funga Nordica' Knudsen
& Vesterholt (ed): pub
Nordsvamp 2008.



LACTARIUS SP. AT BASTOW WOOD, Upper Wharfedale

Dear Pat; -

Many thanks for sending me the collections by Joan Powell on 15.08.10 and by Audrey Gramshaw on 21.09.10, and for alerting me to the fact of a much earlier collection at Kew by Audrey Gramshaw from the same site on 12.09.87 determined by Derek Reid as *L.aspideus*. Also for referring me to Tom Hering's photo in *Field Mycology* 10(4):129 showing that the site is upland grassland and not really a wood at all.

This letter summarises my conclusions. I will file a copy of it at Kew with the Powell collection with cross—references from the two Gramshaw collections.

I have now examined the earlier Gramshaw collection and, not surprisingly, find it conspecific with the two recent ones. There are only three possibilities. Either these are all *L.aspideus* or they are all *L. flavopalustris* [described as 'in press' in *Funga Nordica*, but now published: *Karstenia* 49(1): 20 (2010)], or they are yet another new and possibly *Helianthemum*—specific species. All the other related species have distinctly larger spores. -

L.flavopalustris is said to be large (4 to 13cm) and to grow in rich swamp forests with *Betula*. These were all quite small (to 4 cm and 5 cm in the Gramshaw collections, 7cm in the Powell) and on presumably well-drained calcareous soil with *Helianthemum*. *L. aspideus* is the right size (1 to 7cm) and much better known but in damp places with *Salix*. So neither fits well, but there are no grounds for postulating a new species without a demonstration of distinct DNA. The question is which of the other two fits better.

For me the answer has to be *L.flavopalustris* for three reasons:-

- mainly because the spore ornamentation fits better
- also the colour in Joan Powell's photo fits better (*L. aspideus* is pale)
- *L.flavopalustris* is stated in *Funga Nordica* to be calciphile (but none of my books discuss soil preferences for *L. aspideus* so this can't carry too much weight).

I am therefore proposing that these three collections be placed in a new *L.flavopalustris* cover at Kew and this species be added to the checklist.

Best Wishes.

Alick Henrici

NOT QUITE THE LAST PAGE

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS . .

How nice of you all to come and listen to an old man. I don't actually feel very presidential, more like a rheumatic old servant who keeps spilling the soup and is due to retire but is kept on out of tradition. As you will know, I am giving up the post of **Group Editor** with the publication of this newsletter and the 2010 Yearbook. I am sure that **Ian Forward** will have a different approach and will do a good job. I hope that he will be more successful than I have been in attracting other members to contribute. The even more onerous task of **Recorder** I am handing over to **Malcolm Greaves**. In Mal you get a rather more perceptive mycologist than myself [about time, some might say] and I am sure that this places the MYFG records in good hands.

Now about the records. My main computer has been struck by a serious virus attack from which I am hopeful of recovering. Perhaps not too much data will have been lost but the retrieval and re-entry will take some time. The Yearbook may therefore be rather slow to compile. Meanwhile, I would ask my contributors to resend their 2010 records, so that I can make sure that nothing important has gone astray.

I have now been producing these newsletters for about 17 years and, as you have discovered, or will know already, this is about the last one. If you notice a certain amount of self-indulgence creeping in, well it's your fault; you shouldn't have let me start.

So what should I say? Quite soon after taking on mycology as a sport I bought a microscope; and some time later I succeeded in taking rather blurred pictures of micro-bits. Looking down the tube has been a continual source of delight and will I hope continue to be so. I am therefore frequently amazed at the looks I get when I suggest that this is 'real field mycology' and even more so when I encounter folk who have had a microscope for many years (in some cases) and still don't know how to use it. **I think that this is important;** if we intend the MYFG to continue to improve its reputation and to successfully investigate the fungal flora of

Yorkshire we must have more and better mycologists. We must become 'proper scientists'.

The Future. So I am anxious to increase the mycological expertise in the MYFG. By which I mean that we need more people who, having recognised that a specimen may be unusual, are able and willing to take it home and really find out what it is. This is actually crucial. I myself have rather too often made an assumption which was later proved to be quite wrong - on one occasion missing a 'first for Britain' find - or discarded something without a proper check. (which wastes material and the time used in finding it)..

Anyhow I am proposing that MYFG organise a short weekend workshop or two. The structure would be that we have a Saturday and Sunday foray but only collect on the morning of Saturday. The rest of the time we spend in a room with microscopes and books, collectively and individually trying to be really sure of what we have. Mostly we pick up too much stuff anyhow; I am convinced that after a couple of hours one has found all that can be evaluated and that one does better to spend time diagnosing than collecting more specimens.

This CAN be done. The YNU used to do it annually until numbers started to dwindle. It may be that we should have to pay for a room, unless some benefactor with a large house is willing to help, but the foray programme need not change - a Saturday foray can be extended into Sunday. If a venue near to the centre of our area can be found, we could come back to it from the foray site at the end of the morning.

Given enough support I WILL ORGANISE THIS. I have the books and will share them - let me know if you are interested.

Meanwhile - for the penultimate time, if you have been.....

Thank You for reading.

ALAN





CYSTODERMA AMIANTHINUM

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