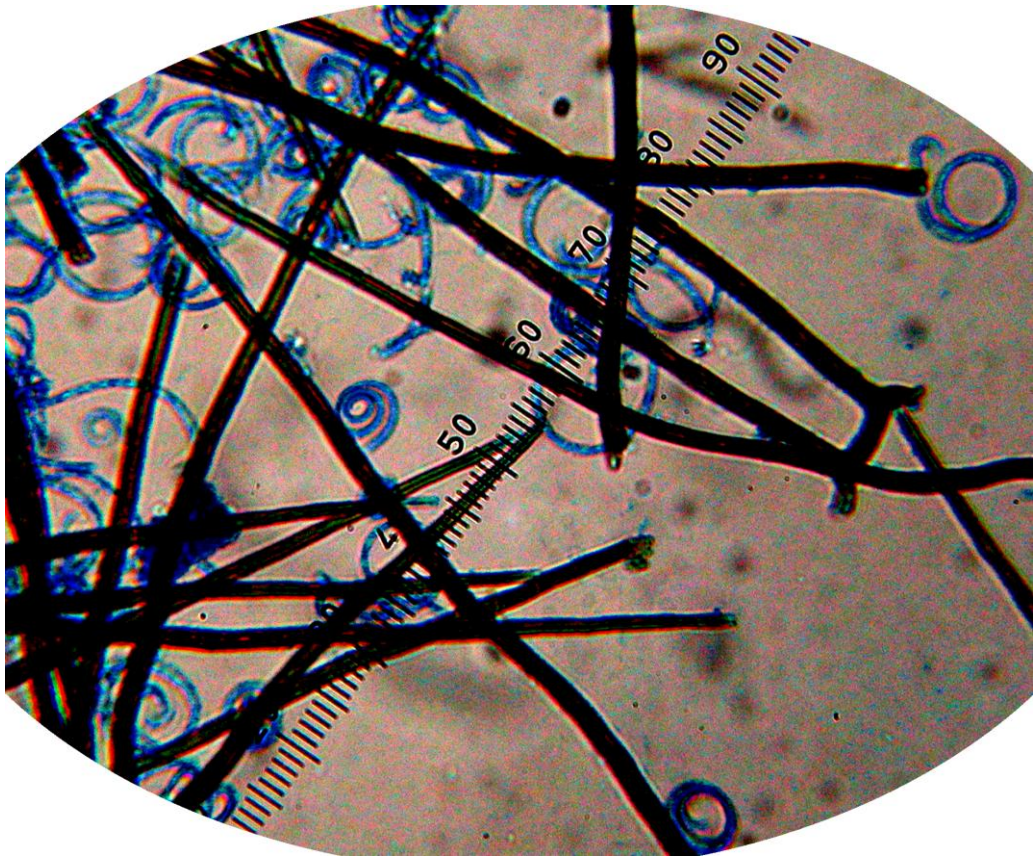
Herefordshire Fungus Survey Group

News Sheet Nº 6: Autumn 2003



Conidia of Tubeufia cerea anamorph (Fishpool Valley, Croft - 4/6/03)

Contents

President & Recorder:	Ted Blackwell
Chair & Secretary:	Sheila Spence
Treasurer:	Ray Bray

Welcome to the Autumn 2003 News Sheet

A year ago, I tried to set out my aspirations for these News Sheets, with the hope that each issue would be:

- a record (in summary) of the Group's activities, ie who we are and what we do;
- entertaining;
- educational.

With the educational theme in mind, the Spring 2003 News Sheet contained the first of Heather's articles on lichens and this was very well received.

It is really pleasing therefore, that not only does this current issue contain the next in that series of Heather's, but also the initial articles of two other series on very relevant topics.

Stephanie is bravely starting to tackle the immense task of helping us with identification of host plants and in this issue she distinguishes between three similar looking ferns. If you, yourself have any groups of plants you would especially like her to deal with in future, please do let her know.

Jo has succumbed to considerable arm-twisting (and compromising of her professional integrity?), to give us some clues on how she manages to start putting names to those frustrating, tiny and beautiful *Mycenas*, and so on.

In all these series, we have taken the view that it is better to 'drip feed' a relatively small amount of information each time, over a number of issues, rather than devote an entire issue (or so) to just one subject. The cumulative results should still be the same and there are the added advantages that:

- it gives more time to obtain appropriate illustrations;
- the content can be more easily modified in the light of your comments, as the series progress.

Once again, thank you, everyone, for your contributions to this News Sheet, both textual and pictorial. I shall try to include as many as possible, although with the number of photos I have received this time, I am afraid that one or two have had to be left out. However, ***please do keep them all coming in, as well as comments, suggestions, etc.***

Enjoy your reading! Mike Stroud

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Just a very few words from me this time: firstly to say how amazing it has been to receive the monthly reports from Ted on how we are doing with the CFGA surveys! Who would have thought we could find so many different species, when we have had such a dry season? I am really astonished and most impressed by everyone's hard work and continued enthusiasm. If we carry on like this we shall have some really good lists to contribute to the churches involved and I am sure they are going to be really pleased with the outcome.

Don't forget: if you cannot take digital photos yourself, do let either Mike or George know, if you find anything super-interesting. We shall need lots of photos for the final display, although as yet I do not know when and where.

I have recently received a letter from Nigel Hadden-Paton regarding Truffles. He would like a sample of all those we find (hic!). Apparently Truffle UK Ltd are conducting research into which sorts of truffle can be found in the UK. I quote from his letter:

> "Whilst this business has attracted much media coverage, we have a problem convincing people that truffles actually grow in the UK. Thanks to RBG, Kew and ABFG we have been able to glean some data, but it is limited and mostly historical. We would like to try and raise awareness of truffle and would ask if, during your autumnal forays this season, your group members could keep a special look-out for them. Most 'finds' reported to us came about as a result of the presence of the 'truffle fly', which lays its eggs in ripe truffles, seen hovering in swarms above the ground. This is a regularly used and effective method of detection in France, when pigs or dogs are unavailable. In most cases the ripe truffle is very close to, and often just breaking, the surface of the ground."

He goes on to say that they are not in the game of collecting wild truffle, but if you would dry them all down and send him a slice or two of each, he can get them identified. If you would like to find out more about Truffle UK Ltd., try their website at www.truffle-uk.co.uk . The rest is up to you, but on present records I do not think that they will be snowed under with specimens from round our way!

Happy foraying and have a great autumn!

Sheila Spence

RECORDER'S REPORT MARCH-AUGUST 2003

The process of filling-in the gaps and adding new species to the Herefordshire database continues apace. New additions may be genuinely rare or, as with many of the more-or-less common microfungi, have merely escaped previous recording.

Haffield Estate, 19th March:
From our previous visits we were aware of mature cedars on the site offering the possibility at this time of year of the occurrence of *Geopora sumneriana* but our diligent searching was unsuccessful. However, the previous wet months gave scope for recording a variety of Aphyllophores. The foray brought to light several mostly common microfungi which have not been recorded before such as *Thamnidium elegans* and *Chaetocladium brefeldii* on rabbit dung, *Pyrenochaeta fallax* on nettle dead stem, and *Volutella ciliata* on dead conifer needles. The latter has a form reminiscent of a shuttlecock with a rim of upstanding hairs (setae) surrounding the sporodochium, and is perhaps less commonly recorded.

Another fungus with few previous records, but regarded as common, was *Polydesmia pruinosa,* which colonises Pyrenomycete stroma. There are only two previous records of *Periconia byssoides* on the dead stem of *Epilobium hirsutum*, last recorded in 1914. There are only three previous records of *Didymium squamulosum* in 1914, 1971 and 1995 although Ing says "one on the commonest Myxomycetes". The scarcity of lichens was possibly due to pollution drifting from the nearby M5 motorway. A total of about 76 species identified.

Nupend Wood SSSI, 16th April:
This was the Group's first foray to this site, which is a steeply sloping hillside, mainly broadleaved with yews and, on this occasion, very dry. It had produced Morel-type fungi (Morchellaceae) in earlier years, but on this foray only *Mitrophora semilibera* was found. None of these Morel-types are frequent in Herefordshire, the few records favouring areas around Ledbury and Durlow. Interesting Aphyllophores included the stalked *Ganoderma lucidum*, prized in Chinese herbal medicine and "Jupiter's Beard", *Hyphodontia barba-jovis* - the fertile surface in the form of short 'setae' or spines, like a worn-down scrubbing brush.

A minute but attractive pink fungus on a dead hazel stem was a first Herefordshire record, *Nectria ralfsii*, which Dr. Dennis says is uncommon. Another first was *Tremella versicolor*, an inconspicuous orange fruitbody found parasitising the surface of *Peniophora lycii*, which was confirmed by Dr. Peter Roberts, RBG, Kew, who commented, "It seems to have been quite well known in the nineteenth century but then completely forgotten about until recently". *Mycotyphula microsporum,* on dead herbaceous stem is also a first record. The once-thought-to-be-rare parasite, *Xanthoriicola physciae,* which blackens the apothecia of the common lichen *Xanthoria parietina* was recorded here and is beginning to seem more common, as it has turned up on several sites in the past year; more a matter of it being noticed. About 70 species identified.

Credenhill Park Wood, 7th May:
This steep wooded hill surmounted by ancient earthworks was recently acquired by the Woodland Trust, which was keen to have contemporary records of fungi, the few previous records mainly dating from forays by the Woolhope Club in 1882, the BMS in 1926 and our previous visit in 2000. Fungi of the late-winter and spring included *Agrocybe praecox*, St. George's Mushroom *Calocybe gambosum*, and Scarlet Elf Cup *Sarcoscypha austriaca*. Amongst the other larger fungi was *Peziza micropus,* on fallen wood, recently synonymised with *P. varia* and recorded as the latter.

A notable find was *Glyphium elatum*, a micro-ascomycete, which under the stereo-microscope has a shape of a miniature axe-head or chisel. According to Dr. Dennis, at one time it appeared to be one of the rarest fungi in Europe, "only found a dozen times in the past century and a quarter, only twice in the British Isles". Though still rare, there have been a number of finds recently; needless to say, this is the first Herefordshire record.

Glyphium elatum – Credenhill Park Wood (7/5/03)

Gliocladium luteolum, a Hyphomycete appearing as a yellowish velvety film on rotten wood was another first record for Herefordshire and *Periconia cookei*, like a mass of knob-headed pins on rotten wood is only the second county record; both of these are common fungi, probably overlooked in the past. With the emergence of the spring foliage it is pleasing to see nine rust species recorded, which included *Puccinia acetosae* on Common Sorrel

(which occurred for the first time in the record) and one on nettle, *Puccinia caricina*, which is notable for causing swelling and distortion of the plant tissues. About 70 species.

Puccinia caricina – Credenhill Park Wood (7/5/03)

Hergest Croft Garden & Park Wood, 21st May:
Although ground condition were dry, the broad range of tree and plant species found in Hergest Croft garden provided hosts for *Melanconium stromaticum*, a Coelomycete apparently confined to dead branches of hornbeam (*Carpinus betula*) and two fungi occurring on *Arundinaria* ('bamboo'): a Hyphomycete, *Corynespora foveata* which appears like a fury coating on the base of stems, having multiseptate conidia and a Pyrenomycete, *Apiospora bambusae*, like a series of black lines on stems, having 1-septate spores where the septum is unusually placed just above the base.

The usual occurrence of "first Herefordshire records" includes *Galerina laevis*, a species characteristic of grassland, especially lawns. *Galerina pumila*, a moss coloniser was found for only the second time, having previously occurred at Crow Wood nature reserve in 1993.

Galerina pumila – Hergest Croft (21/5/03)

Arachnopeziza auarata was recorded for only the third time, previous records were in 2000 at Barnett Wood and Dinmore in 1926. About 45 species identified.

Fishpool Valley, Croft, 4th June:
Species "new to the Herefordshire database" were: *Brachysporium dingleyae* on dead *Rhododendron,* with interesting 3-septate dark spores and *Ramularia lychnicola* on Red Campion leaves.

Brachysporium dingleyae (microscope at x400) – Fishpool Valley (4/6/03). Photograph by Bryan Lack

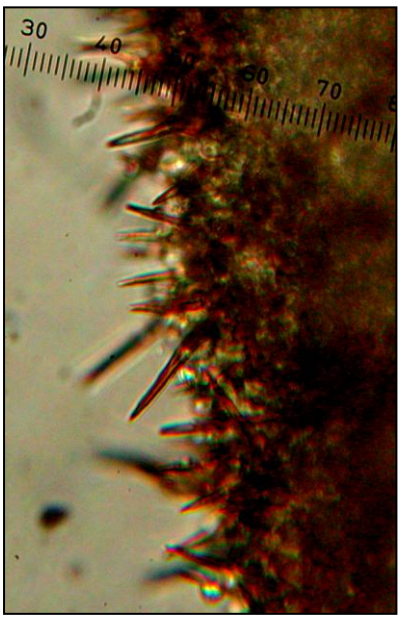
Glyphium elatum, thought to be rare and which was recorded last month for the first time in Herefordshire at Credenhill and also Upton Bishop churchyard, was found again in Fishpool Valley; perhaps less rare than thought, or conditions favourable this year. The only previous records of the following two species were made at the BMS Centenary Foray in 1996:

- *Acrospermum compressum*, like miniature Dead Man's Fingers and particularly on dead nettle stems, surely a common fungus;

Acrospermum compressum – Fishpool Valley (4/6/03)

- *Tubeufia cera* usually as the anamorph (*Helicosporium* state) in the form of a greenish mould on dead wood. This has long hair-like conidiophores bearing helically coiled conidia, under the microscope the scattered conidia appearing like an explosion of watch-springs (photograph on front cover).

Several species have been recorded in Herefordshire on only one or two previous occasions, such as *Trechispora mollusca*, a poroid Corticioid with delicate cell-like pores. Similarly *Leptosphaeria coniothyrium*, on living bramble stems and the cause of Rubus Cane Blight, was last noted at Symonds Yat in 1966; it cannot be that rare, but one needs gloves and secateurs to collect it! About 75 species identified.



Marasmius cohaerens – Lea & Paget's Wood (9/7/03) – also showing spinulae (microscope at x400)

Lea & Paget's Wood SSSI, 9th July:

Pluteus romellii – Lea & Paget's Wood (9/7/03)

Conditions were rather dry, but a fair range of interesting fungi were found. Amongst the many Agarics was the elegant *Amanita crocea* and such as *Pluteus romellii*, *Marasmius cohaerens* (noted for brush-cells and spinulae on cap and gills) and *Coprinus cortinatus*, a first Herefordshire record, which according to Professor Watling, is often found with Dog's Mercury.

There is only one previous record of *Henningsomyces candidus*, also at Lea & Pagets in 1996. This together with the more common *Flagelloscypha minutissima*, could easily be mistaken for a *Dasyscyphus*, the difference being immediately clear when viewed microscopically.

The now customary 'Herefordshire firsts' included a Hyphomycete on pheasant dung, *Mycosylva clarkii*, like mini-drumsticks. This fungus honours Malcolm Clark, editor of the Warwickshire Fungus Flora, who first found it. There was a curious coincidence about this find, in that three more fungi were found for only the second time in Herefordshire, all of whose first records having been by Malcolm Clark. These were *Appendicullela (Irene) calostroma* on bramble stems, first recorded by Clark in 1976 at Symonds Yat. This has been dubbed a 'Black Mildew', analogous to the Powdery Mildews, because it has asci-bearing cleistocarps which develop on a tracery of, not white, but blackish mycelium.

It seems that on the same occasion Clark also made the first record of *Anthostomella rubicola* on Bramble. *Fimaria theioleuca,* found here on deer dung was another first recorded by Clark, at Haye Park Wood in 1988.

Scopuloides rimosa may be only the third Herefordshire record. The situation is slightly uncertain depending whether or not one regards *S. hydnoides* as a synonym or a separate species, as there were two records of *S. hydoides* in 1996, at Haugh Wood and Lord's Wood Quarry.

Drepanopeziza ribis (Leaf Spot of currant) was last recorded in 1976 in MAFF crop disease records (which ceased to be kept after 1982) and presumably the absence of subsequent records

arises because currant bushes are not too common, or are overlooked on the customary foraying sites. About 104 species identified.

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Interesting Herefordshire records have been reported by members and non-members, in addition to those from programmed forays. Churchyard surveys for CFGA project have also discovered new or uncommon species. Inevitably, a number are seldom recorded, or have not been recorded before in VC36 and the following is a representative selection.

First Herefordshire records:

Puccinia allii on garden leeks, Durlow Common, 24/3 Ray Bray.

Phoma visci on living mistletoe leaf, Moccas, 15/4, Jo Weightman. Considering the abundance of mistletoe in the county, this first record is perhaps more than long overdue.

Pyrenopeziza adenostylidis on dead umbellifer stem, Upton Bishop churchyard, 7/5, Mary Hunt.

Glyphium elatum, mentioned above at Credenhill and Fishpool, was found first at Upton Bishop churchyard, 7/5, John Roberts.

Diplodia rubi on dead bramble stem, Upton Bishop churchyard, 24/5, Ted Blackwell.

Cheirospora botryospora on dead ivy branch, Weobley churchyard, 30/5, Ted Blackwell.

Postia placenta, a strikingly pink Polypore on dead conifer wood, (see B&K2 No. 339 as *Tyromyces p*.). Wigmore Rolls 7/6, John & Denise Bingham;

Litschaueria corticiorum, a small black perithecial fungus with spiny setae, amongst the mycelium of a Corticioid fungus. Moccas Park 14/6, Jo Weightman.

Rhychosporium allisma on a fading leaf of Alisma, Moccas Park, 14/6, Jo Weightman.

Ceuthospora hederae on living ivy leaf, Hatfield churchyard, 20/6, Ted Blackwell.

Plasmopara epilobii on fading willowherb leaf, Castle Frome churchyard, 4/7, George and Sheila Spence.

Conocybe brunneola in grass, Castle Frome churchyard, 4/7, Sheila Spence; the last records it seems were from Woolhope Club times, 18xx.

Aulographium hederae on ivy leaf, Richards Castle churchyard, 10/7, Jo Weightman.

Septoria leucanthemi on ox-eye daisy, Richards Castle churchyard, 10/7 Jo Weightman.

Colletotrichum dematium on Herb Paris, Barnett Wood, 11/7, Jo Weightman.

Nectria magnusiana on Pyrenomycete stroma, Richards Castle churchyard 23/7, Ted Blackwell.

*Septoria chrysanthem*i on ox-eye daisy living leaf, Richards Castle churchyard, 23/7, Ted Blackwell.

Species for which only a few previous records exist.

Parasphaerosphaeria glaucopunctata (= *P. rusci*) on Butcher's Broom cladodes, Vineyard cottage SO7450, 20/02, Cherry Greenway. There is one record in Woolhope Club times, but since only one in 1996 at Weir Garden. Ted Blackwell found it three weeks later at Hereford Castle Green; probably not uncommon if looked for in late winter.

Schizophyllum commune and *Lenzites betula* on beech fallen log at Brockhampton 25/2, Cherry Greenway.

Encoelia furfuracea on hazel, Frith Wood, 2/3, George and Sheila Spence.

Pulcherricium caeruleum on fallen beech, Credenhill Park wood, 31/3, Sheila Spence.

Dumontinia tuberosa at Capler Hill wood, 7/4, Cherry Greenway, recorded only once in Woolhope Club times (18xx) at Stoke Edith park; it can't be that rare, just difficult to find under fallen leaves.

Dumontinia tuberosa (photograph by Cherry Greenway)

Urocystis colchici, on living leaves of *Colchicum autumnale*, Moccas Park, 15/4, Jo Weightman, first recorded last year at Moccas by Jo.

Pyrenopeziza petiolaris on petioles of fallen sycamore leaves, Pudleston churchyard, 26/5, Cherry Greenway, only the 4th record and last recorded in 1984 at Ross-on-Wye by Douglas Graddon.

Leptospora rubella on dead stem at Upton Bishop churchyard, 7/5, Mary Hunt, the only previous record at Moccas Park 8/4/1996 on BMS Centenary Foray.

Kabatia periclymeni on fading leaves of Honeysuckle at Durlow Common Ray Bray 31/5, only three previous records, at same site by Ray in 2001 & 2002.

Boletus impolitus under beech, Bronsil House, Ledbury (English Nature offices) 18/6, John Bingham, few previous records, the last at Coneygree Wood by Stephanie Thomson in 1976.

Gomphidius maculatus under conifers, Wigmore Rolls, 7/6, John & Denise Bingham, few recent records, the last at Haye Park Wood by Ted Blackwell in 1985.

Lactarius zonarius, Wigmore Rolls, 7/6, John & Denise Bingham; only three previous records, 1999 at Wigmore Rolls by Jo Weightman, 1999 at Dinmore Hill by Stephanie Thomson, and 2001 at Bromyard Downs by Dave Champion.

Microsphaera viburni on Guelder Rose, Durlow Common, 2/7, Ray Bray, only one previous record also at Durlow 2000 by Ray.

Puccinia cnici on spear thistle, Durlow Common, 6/7, Ray Bray, only two previous records, (in good company) in 1967 at Symonds Yat by Malcolm Clark, and 1992 at Snodhill Castle by Tom Preece.

Lactarius glaucescens, Wigmore Rolls, 26/7, John & Denise Bingham; few recent records, last found at Dinmore in 1978 by Stephanie Thomson.

Conocybe siliginea in grass, Upton Bishop churchyard 30/7, Sheila Spence, only previous record at Michaelchurch Esclay nature reserve 1995 by Ted Blackwell.

Other brief news items

Boletus satanus (photograph by Cherry Greenway)

Boletus satanus was seen by Cherry Greenway and Heather Colls at the usual Great Doward site in mid-July, although some fruitbodies seemed to disappear very quickly - whether through slugs or other agency is not known.

Jo Weightman reported *Strobilomyces floccopus* in Mary Knoll Valley on 14th July.

Taphrina amentorum was found at Bodenham Lakes on alder catkins on 15th July by Cherry Greenway.

I hear that the staff at RBG Kew have been joined by a lichen specialist, Begonia Aguirre-Hudson.

The term 'Mitosporic Fungi' introduced in the 8th Dictionary of Fungi for what previously had been called Deuteromycetes and Fungi Imperfecti, was omitted from the 9th edition and replaced by 'anamorphic fungi'. Professor David Hawksworth writing in the latest Lichenologist prefers 'conidial fungi'. No doubt the debate will continue.

My thanks to all collectors and recorders who have contributed lists and results of homework, who continue to expand the Herefordshire records of fungi. Additional thanks are due to Heather Colls for the lichen records.

Ted Blackwell.
Recorder.

FUNGAL FRAGMENTS

- **Common names**: I like them. To hold most beginners' interest in fungi I think they're invaluable. The look on friends' faces when they hear
  'Witches' Butter' (*Exidia glandulosa)*,
  'Dog Stinkhorn' (*Mutinus caninus),*
  'Scarlet Elf Cup' *(Sarcoscypha austriaca),* or
  'Old Man of the Woods' *(Strobilomyces floccopus)* is priceless.

  I've been lent a delightful little book with good illustrations, and recipes, entitled "Mushrooms and Other Fungi" by Aurel Dermek (Galley Press), in which I found the following common names:
  'Poor Man's Sweetbread' *(Lycoperdon perlatum),*
  'Clover Windling' *(Marasmius oreades)*,
  'The Gypsy' *(Rozites caperata)*,
  'Man on Horseback' *(Tricholoma flavovirens)*,
  'Pink Bottom' *(Agaricus campestris)*,
  'The Goat's Lip' *(Xerocomus subtomentosus)*
  and
  'Plum Agaric' *(Clitopilus prunulus).*
  Cherry Greenway

- You know how some people, when you have spent a whole morning foraying and found absolutely nothing, come back with a basket full of goodies? Well, John goes one stage further and, at home, just 'happened' to find a lawn-full of morels! Opposite is the photo he took.

- Cherry has sent this photo of *Panus torulosus (Pleurotus conchatus)*, which she found in July in the Leeping Stocks SSSI at Doward:

OCCASIONAL PORTRAITS – Jo Weightman

We are always delighted when Jo pays us one of her flying visits.

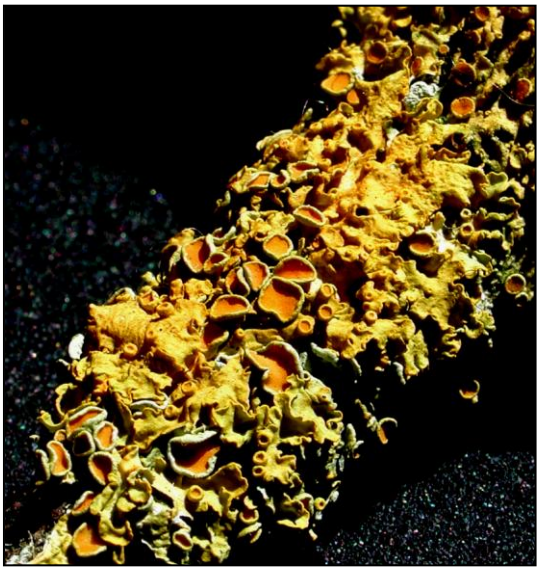
AN INTRODUCTION TO LICHENS: 2 . BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM!

Fungi and higher plants commonly reproduce both by spores or seeds and also by various vegetative means. Lichens, composed as they are of part fungus, part alga, act similarly. Indeed, the reproductive elements of the lichen often cover most of its surface and details of these are often crucial in determining the individual species to which the lichen belongs.

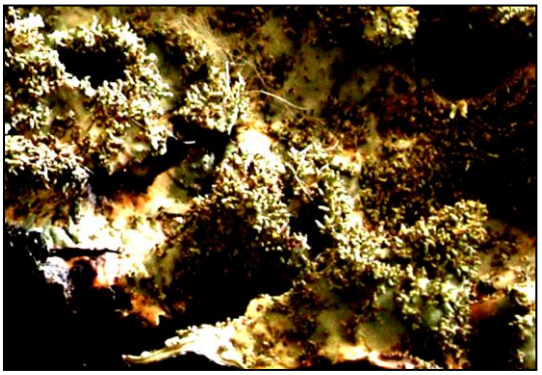
Some lichens, however, choose not to make life too easy for us humans. Those that have never been known to produce spores, lichenologists ascribe to one of several "dustbin" genera, hoping that one day a fruiting body will be found. Then, with the details of this fruit to hand, its correct place in lichen classification can be assigned. The blue/green granular covering on the shaded side of the trunks of many Herefordshire woodland trees, *Lepraria incana*, falls into this category.

As the majority of the fungi involved in lichens are ascomycetes, the commonest fruiting bodies are cup, or disc-shaped structures on the surface of the lichen, termed apothecia. The fruits of the common orange lichen, *Xanthoria parietina,* are of this type. Sometimes the cups are sunken into the surface of the lichen, forming flask-shaped structures with only a small opening at the top, in which case they are called perithecia. All that can be seen with the hand lens will be a spot on the lichen surface, the hole through which the spores escape.

A few lichens have fungal partners, which are basidiomycetes and these produce stalked fruits, or even toadstool-shaped structures. You will find *Omphalina* species, for instance, in both fungus and



Xanthoria parietina



Isidia on *Parmelia saxatilis*

Soralia on *Punctelia subrudecta*

lichen floras, the lichen flora paying more attention to the scrappy bit of material at the base of the toadstool than the fungal textbook - which only describes the fruiting body!

The important point to remember is that all these fruiting bodies are produced entirely by the fungus and contain only the fungal element of the fungus/alga partnership. Once whisked off by an air current, the spore has to find a bit of its algal partner in order to combine and grow into another lichen.

Although, somewhat amazingly, many lichens rely very successfully on this method of reproduction others have developed different strategies. By using vegetative reproductive methods, they can disperse themselves as fragments containing both the alga and the fungus. Although fragments can break off from any part of the lichen, many lichens have developed specialized outgrowths specifically for this purpose. These are called isidia or soralia, according to their shape. Such structures are not found in non-lichenized fungi.

Isidia are small stalked outgrowths on the surface of the lichen which, when broken off, affix themselves to a new substrate by growing out establishment hyphae. An example of this is the very common foliose lichen, *Parmelia saxatilis,* which grows on both trees and rocks.

Soralia are delimited patches of powdery material on the surface of the lichen, consisting of units of algal cells bound together with a weft of fungal hyphae. Soralia are exceedingly common in lichens and their position and shape can be of great importance in naming a lichen to species. A good example of soralia can be seen on *Punctelia subrudecta*, a common Herefordshire foliose lichen which grows on trees in fairly open situations.

Heather Colls

KNOW YOUR HOST PLANTS: 1. THREE COMMON FERNS

Together with the Horsetails and Clubmosses, the Ferns belong to the order Pteridophyta. They do not have flowers and seeds, but their reproduction involves a rather more complex arrangement known as alternation of generations.

The three ferns under discussion bear sporangia (spore bearing organs) on the backs of the fronds and the shape and arrangement of these helps to determine the species. The spores germinate to form a tiny green prothallus, barely 1cm across, called a gametophyte, which bears antheridia and archegonia – the male and female organs, respectively.

It is the fusion of a spermatozoid (the male cells contained within the antheridium) with an egg-cell from an archegonium, which results in the fern plant we all know. Water is necessary for this operation, so the prothalli are always found in damp, shady situations.

Broad Buckler Fern *(Dryopteris dilata)*
This is a dark bluish-green fern with a tripinnate (composed of three main divisions) frond of triangular outline, the margins of whose ultimate leaf segments turn under. The scales on the stipe also provide a distinguishing feature with their dark, central longitudinal stripe. The indusium, the flap of tissue covering a group of sporangia, is kidney-shaped, a feature shared by all the species of Dryopteris.

Scales from Broad Buckler Fern

Broad Buckler Fern *(Dryopteris dilata)*

Male Fern *(Dryopteris filix-mas)*
The sporangia and indusium are as in the Broad Buckler Fern. However, the Male Fern frond is bipinnate - with two main divisions rather than three - and the stipe scales are a uniform pale brown to straw colour. Both this and the Broad Buckler are normally woodland or hedgerow plants. Apart from bracken, this is probably the commonest fern in Herefordshire. The 'male' in the name has no sexual connotation, just as the Lady Fern (below) does not mean that it is female. The nomenclature is obviously designed to confuse!

Male Fern *(Dryopteris filix-mas)*

Indusium from the Male Fern

Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina)*
At first sight, this fern may appear to be very similar to the Male Fern, as it also is bipinnate. The frond, though, is rather more delicate (as befits a lady) and a glance at the back will immediately distinguish the two, since the indusium is elongated into a comma or J-shape. It prefers damper sites than the preceding species and is often by streams, or in damp hollows in woodland.

Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina)*

Indusium from the Lady Fern

Stephanie Thomson
Photographs (except of the scales) by Peter Thomson

ANSWERS:

Spring 2003 Mycrossword:

Across: 1 Fabric, 7 Lion, 12 mi, 13 my, 14 hedgehog, 16 Ing, 17 tyro, 18 terreum, 20 CS, 22 rots.
Down: 2 ale, 3 binge, 4 rot, 5 Inonotus, 6 lament, 8 rum, 10 midge, 11 myxo, 14 hi, 15 gym, 19 ecto, 21 us.

Autumn 2003 Myco-Quiz:

1	all begin with P
2	genus and species begin with the same letter
3	all specific names refer to trees
4	all have royal connections
5	each latin name is reversed
6	b wrong spelling
7	d no milk
8	b brown spored
9	b not mealy
10	d not violet
11	a - the others refer to birds
12	d
13	a
14	a
15	c
16	d
17	a
18	b
19	Collybia
20	Lepiota
21	Coprinus
22	Pholiota
23	Cortinarius
24	Geastrum
25	Lycoperdon
26	mushroom
27	fairy ring
28	wood blewitt
29	shaggy parasol
30	penny bun
31	blusher
32	death cap
33	roll rim
34	charcoal burner
35	hedgehog
36	a
37	d
38	c
39	Tubaria

SMALL WHITE MYCENAS ET AL: 1. SPARE THEM A SECOND GLANCE!

This is written with great trepidation: I know I am sticking my neck out and that my betters will shoot me down. With a fistful of qualifying doubts, below, as requested, is the first of a series of notes, which might help you to get closer in the field to some at least of the small white Mycenas and similar fungi.

Just as our postcode conveys a lot of information to an insurance company about a prospective client, so the habitat of these small white jobs gives a lot away. So I am mentioning the postcode first!

As always, approach them by habitat as well as by any identifying characters.

Fallen beech leaves:
Poke about among the leaves and you will surely find them but do look closely as *Marasmius setosus* (*recubans*) with a wiry, red, hairy stipe (and white cap) occurs on the veins and mid-rib of beech leaves.

Marasmius setosus (*recubans*)

Mycena rorida

Debris/litter:
(Especially dead, hung-up bramble stems) Mycena rorida – wears a clear jelly body suit that slips down to its ankles, decurrent gills.

On bark of standing broad-leaved trees:
Mycena corynophora – can occur in 100's or even 1000's, but only in prolonged wet weather - cap and stipe finely scurfy – very small.

Mycena corynophora (photo by W. Weightman)

A species `with a touch of white`, especially on oak *Mycena pseudocorticola* – it is an eyesight test to find this very small uncommon fungus. The domed and striate cap ranges in colour from whitish through pale to quite deep blue grey with a pale margin. Stipe similar white / grey / blue tones. Cap, stipe and the rather distant white gills all have a bloom or pruina.

Mycena pseudocorticola

Jo Weightman

MYCO-QUIZ *(Answers on p11)*

What do the following have in common?

1 Phlebia
Peziza
Pluteus
Panellus

2 Russula rubroalba
Squamanita schreieri
Otidea onotica
Tricholoma terreum

3 Gyroporus castaneus
Pholiota alnicola
Piptoporus betulinus
Leccinum quercinum

4 Stropharia coronilla
Amanita caesarea
Agaricus augustus
Boletus regius

5 Cantharellus hygrophorus
Hypoxylon xylaria
Panaeolus lepista
Bovista scleroderma

Which is the odd one out?

6 a) Peziza
b) Marasmius
c) Morchella
d) Pholiota

7 a) Lactarius pyrogalus
b) Hemimycena lactea
c) Mycena galopus
d) Mycena galericulata

8 a) Hygrocybe vitellina
b) Bolbitius vitellinus
c) Mycena vitilis
d) Amanita vittaeformis

8 a) Clitopilus prunulus
b) Lactarius glyciosmos
c) Clitocybe vibecina
d) Tricholoma scalpturatum

10 a) Laccaria amethystea
b) Entoloma euchroum
c) Cortinarius caerulescens
d) Russula virescens

11 a) Agaricus campestris
b) Tricholoma columbetta
c) Vincetoxicum hirundinaria
d) Coprinus picaceus

12 *A corticioid fungus is*
a) like wood
b) very tall
c) hollow
d) crust-like

13 *A resupinate fungus is*
a) flat on its back
b) often eaten
c) much sought after
d) a pine species

14 *A hydnoid fungus*
a) is spiny
b) is concealed
c) has two life forms
d) parasitic

15 *Verrucose means*
a) glassy
b) wormlike
c) warty
d) very soft

16 *An umbo is*
a) a poisonous fungus
b) a ring on the stipe
c) a subterranean fungus
d) a raised hump on the cap

17 **A marginate bulb has**
a) a well-defined edge
b) a grooved surface
c) a greasy surface
d) a peeling surface

18 **A pleurotoid fungus is one**
a) "weeping" beads of moisture
b) lacking a stipe
c) with cystidea on the gills
d) with pink spores and free gills

19 ***Which genus has a greasy cap, a spotty complexion, spindle-shaped legs and woolly feet?***

Find the genera

20 O LEAP IT
21 ROC IN PUS
22 O HOT PAIL
23 RAN IN COURTS
24 SAGER TUM
25 CLEN DROOPY

Which fungus is

26 a place for a squash
27 a circular elf
28 a forest trumpeter
29 a tattered sunshade
30 a cheap snack
31 an easily embarrassed lad
32 worn by a disapproving judge
33 the edge of a small loaf
34 barbecue equipment
35 an evasive pig

36 **A fungus is chambered if it**
a) has hollow spaces
b) is placed in a box
c) is kept at room temperature
e) referred to a higher authority

37 **The term ascomycete refers to**
a) a foolish mycologist
b) a pair of fused fruitbodies
c) a fungus containing ascorbic acid
d) a fungus which fires off its spores

38 **Gleba is found**
a) in the tubes of boletes
b) in church yards
c) on certain sorts of stomach fungi
d) on vicarage lawns

39 What did the fungus sing in the bath?

Jo Weightman