



Herefordshire Fungus Survey Group

News Sheet N° 33: Autumn 2018



Arcyria incarnata

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HFSG Officials

President:	Ted Blackwell
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Secretary:	Mike Stroud
Treasurer:	Charles Hunter
Technical Officer:	Steve Rolph

Editor's Notes

This is my first edition of our newsletter I hope you approve I will try to provide a document equal to Mike Stroud's previous exemplary documents. I have tried to format the newsletter to be readable on various platforms e.g. Desktops, laptops, tablets, smart phones etc. If you have any issues reading on your device let me know.

It was suggested at the last AGM that the newsletter could in the majority of cases be delivered in pdf format via email. Comment to myself, contact details below.

Thanks go to Mike Stroud who supplied all the images in this edition.

Below I have included a couple of links to sites that you may find useful. If you use any sites that you think maybe of help to others send me the link and I will share them.

(HFSG have no connection to these links and are given for information only)

I use this to find the locations of forays using the grid references given in the foray program.

<https://gridreferencefinder.com/>

British Mycological Society: English names for fungi

<https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/library/english-names>

Herefordshire Fungus Survey Groups resources page

<http://www.herefordfungi.org/resources.htm>

If you have any items or suggestions for future editions please forward them to my email address.

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Half Year Report March – August 2018

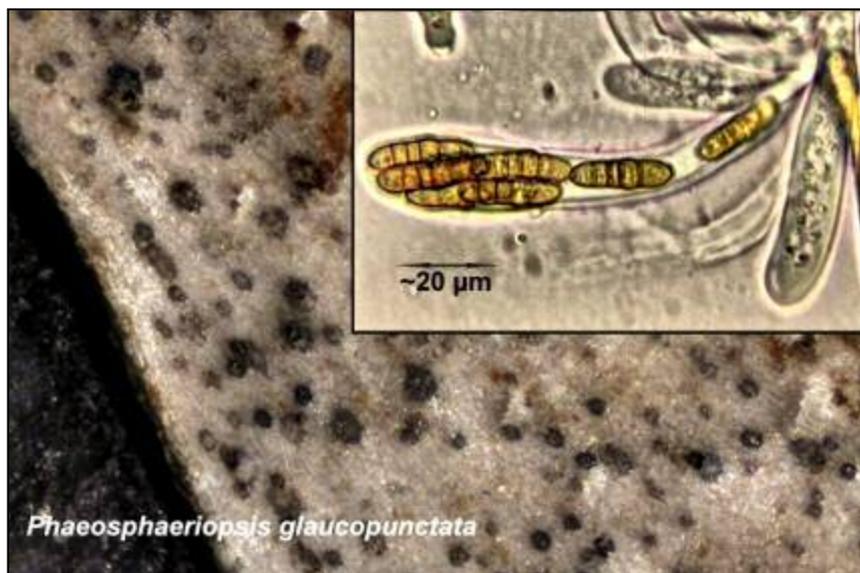
Kentchurch Court 11.04.2018 31 new site records

The group had a very successful first foray at Kentchurch Court in October 2016. This year's spring foray added 31 species to the list for the site.

As I was not able to attend the foray, I was sorry to have missed the uncommon *Hohenbuehelia cyphelliformis* at its first known Herefordshire site. From its shape this species might be thought to be a *Crepidotus*, but the small laterally attached, almost round cap is greyish and striate, while in the hand it feels slightly fleshy because the upper layer is gelatinous. Also found was another small greyish *Crepidotus* look-alike *Resupinatus applicatus* which may be smooth or have a brownish tomentum and has grey gills. It usually occurs in large troops on dead broad-leaved wood.



Several records were of host specific species - *Phaeosphaeriopsis* (*Paraphaeosphaeria*) *glaucopunctata* and *Phomopsis rusci* both occur on the cladodes (apparent leaves) of *Butcher's Broom* *Ruscus aculeatus*. Both present as 'black dots' requiring microscopic examination – many thanks to Ted Blackwell for his determinations. They are probably under-recorded; the second is a new county record.



Strobilurus tenacellus is distinguished in the field by its presence on Pine cones and by the bitter taste. Under the microscope, cystidia character is definitive.

Peniophora proxima - *Peniophora* species occur as thin crusts on dead or dying wood, easily guessed at as to genus as they come in shades of dusky mauve to grey or salmon to coral. Tracking them down to species level is more tricky. In this collection, identification was simplified by its occurrence on Box *Buxus sempervirens* to which it is restricted as well as by the salmon colour.

Ganoderma australe – a very common bracket but a very unusual host. The stump on which it was found was confirmed as Cedar by the Head Gardener.

Timberline Wood, Vowchurch

16. 05. 2018

35 new site records

This was the Group's first visit to Timberline Wood, a site with very few previous records. All but one of the 35 finds proved to be new to site. We were only able to survey a fraction of this large wood which is itself just part of much larger complex. Hopefully this was just the first of many future surveys. The area we were in was primarily broad-leaved woodland comprising oak and ash standards with an understory of hazel.

Most of the finds were of common species, some identifiable in the field. It was of interest to be able to offer at least tentative determinations for three *Peniophora* species, *P. limitata*, *P. lycii* and *P. quercina* and also demonstrate the range of fungi to be found on stinging nettle *Urtica dioica* we found five the mini black clubs of *Acrospermum compressum*, the mini pyramids of *Leptosphaeria acuta*, the little pale pink goblets of *Crocicreas cyathoideum*, the cheating *Lachnella alboviolascens* (its hair-fringed disc looks like an Asco but it is actually a cross dresser and is a Basidio) and the rust *Puccinia urticata* in its cluster cup stage. Good too to be able to show members the various stages of several rusts – Stage I as just mentioned, Stage II of *Kuehneola uredinis* on Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* stems and Stage III of *Puccinia caricina* var. *ribesii-pendulae* on pendulous Sedge *Carex pendulina*.

Agarics were few and far between *Agrocybe praecox* justifying its name as an early species and sulphur tuft *Hypholoma fasciculare* proving that it can be found whatever the season. The dry little globe found loose on a path was the Brown Bovist *Bovista nigrescens* as the spores had a short sterigmal remnant.

Only one myxo was found – *Arcyria incarnata*.



Ryland`s Wood, Kinsham

13. 06. 2018

24 new site records

We followed the footpath through broad-leaved woodland along the low ground near the river, where conditions were marginally less dry, with occasional sorties up the slope. This was a new site for the Group so nearly all finds were new Rylands Wood records. A few additional records including *Scutellinia trechispora* were from the adjacent Maunds Wood.

First off and before we had all negotiated the entrance, was *Cystolepiota adulterina*, startlingly white in a patch of dog`s mercury. It has a white powdery coating which comes off on the fingers, a good field indicator to genus – the scales and fibrils on *Lepiota* proper being attached. A few common *Mycena* and *Marasmius* species such as *Mycena acicula* and *Marasmius rotula* were also found in the first few yards before it all got horribly dry.



Searching dead stems close to the ground was more rewarding. *Lachnum carneolum* var. *longisporum* and *Volutella melaloma* are both new Herefordshire records. The first is a white, hairy margined cup, only 0.5 mm in diameter, found mainly on dead grass leaves. It is not rare but can easily be overlooked. The *Volutella* is much rarer having only 28 entries on the (old) FRDBI. It occurs on leaves of certain sedges, *Carex* spp, as orange to pinkish orange spots surrounded by brown setae. Mike Stroud`s photo will give you an idea.



Bucknall's Wood Foray
18. 07. 2018
30 new site records

Bucknall's Wood comprises oak and ash standards with an understorey of hazel. It had been chosen for a July visit as this is often a dry month and we knew there was a winter- wet pond in the centre. So of course did the mosquitos! The woodland floor, much disturbed by recent clearance, was crisp, as expected in this record-breaking summer. However, the Alder and Willow of the nearly dry central pond and its undisturbed surrounds was more rewarding.

Cladosporium sphaerospermum - this collection on bark looked like a familiar blue-green 'mould' possibly a *Penicillium*. However, under the microscope Ted Blackwell identified it as *Cladosporium sphaerospermum*, a new to county record.

Delicatula integrella was seen in small clusters on rotting wood. First thoughts for this small, almost translucent, Mycena-like white agaric were for *Hemimycena* but the spores were amyloid (blue in iodine solution) so this was not possible. The cap was deeply furrowed like a parachute and the gills were few and more or less forking. There is only one species in the genus *Delicatula*. It is only occasionally reported.

Hymenoscyphus salicellus was found on a dead stick. This is a yellowish to red-brown cup on a short stalk. Last recorded in the 1970's by Graddon, this is only the 5th county record.

Pluteus semibulbosus and *Pluteus podospileus*

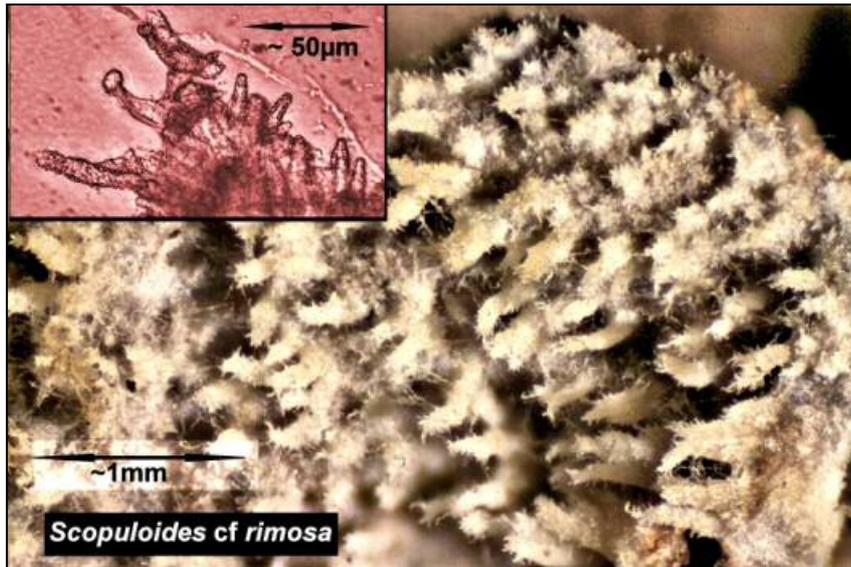
Although the general appearance of each of the two *Pluteus* species can lead to a rough ID in the field, micro characters such as the nature of the cap cuticle are necessary defining characters. This was the 5th county record for *P. semibulbosus*, an occasional, pale, pinkish and markedly striate species, and the 2nd for *P. podospileus* which has a rich dark brown cap, sometimes paler towards the margin.



Psathyrella pygmaea can be confused with *Coprinopsis disseminatus* which was also present. Both are small brown agarics trooping on wood. They can be distinguished in the field as *C. disseminatus* has fine hairs on the cap and remains more or less bell-shaped while *P. pygmaea* has a hairless cap which flattens out at maturity.



Scopuloides cf rimosa is a corticioid with an overall grey appearance. Under the lens the pale grey crust can be seen to be densely coated with small white brush-like teeth while under the microscope the projections on each tooth are revealed as encrusted cystidia (see insert on the photo). *Scopuloides rimosa* may be conspecific with *S. hydroides*. So far as I know, the jury is out on this so it is safest to record the collection with a cf.



Lower Buckenhill Farm

13.08.2018

33 new site records

This is the Group's second visit to the farm, the first in November 2013 when over 80 species were recorded. Given the prolonged hot weather, it is amazing that over 40 species were recorded on this visit.

The vivid orange-red of *Pluteus aurantiorugosus* is almost enough on its own as an identifying field character. Add to that free gills that, if mature, are pink and an ID can be reached. It occurs on dead broad-leaved wood, often inside a crack or hollow trunk. 7th VC36 record.

Melanotus horizontalis – this species looks like a *Crepidotus*, as it is small and fan-shaped. However, the cap and gills are brown. It can occur on a wide, very wide range of hosts, from dead wood in all its forms, to vegetative remains, to rope.

Coprinopsis stercorea is one of many small inkcaps occurring on dung – a study in themselves! 5th VC36 record. Not often recorded anywhere.

Leptosphaeria purpurea – we are all familiar with *L. acuta* which occurs commonly and only on damp dead nettle stems in the form of black mini pyramids. This species has a similar appearance but reveals itself in the field by staining the surrounding tissue reddish. It occurs on a range of tall herbaceous plants, primarily the *Asteraceae* (*Compositae*). 2nd VC 36 record. It appears to be uncommon nationally but may be under-recorded.

Hymenoscyphus fructigenus is a small white or yellow shallow-cupped goblet commonly found on hazel cupules.



Jo Weightman