

This was our fourth joint foray here, with previous visits in the same month in '01, '06 and '08, and a large (by our standards anyway) gathering of forayers from both groups was led round by Alan Gudge, with information on the fungi collected supplied where possible by Derek and myself. It is now becoming apparent that this is a poor season for finding the fruitbodies of mycorrhizal fungi (those growing in association and harmony with trees) not just locally but in fact in many parts of Europe as well. The cause of this phenomenon remains something of a mystery though presumably must be related to weather conditions. Hopefully those species which have failed to fruit this year are happily biding their time hidden away in their chosen substrate, be it soil or wood, and will show themselves next year when the right trigger occurs.

In view of this situation I thought it might be of interest to compare the number of species we found this time with our previous forays here. Our database reveals that in October '01 we collected 101 species, in '06 this fell to 79, then another drop to 66 in '08; this year, however, we managed 74 species despite the lack of many things one would expect to find at this time. The total number of different species now recorded for this site by us stands at 209, and as is inevitable the number of species added new on each visit is gradually decreasing (it becomes harder to find new things once the commoner species are already listed). We in fact added 24 species new to the site this time, including the impressive scaly *Pholiota squarrosa* (Shaggy Scalycap) right at the start (see Derek's photo below) and the equally impressive large caps of *Clitocybe geotropa* (Trooping Funnel) towards the end – both quite common species. Also of interest were the small *Lepiota castanea* (Chestnut Dapperling) new to the site, the decidedly smelly *Tricholoma sulphureum* (Sulphur Knight), 4 different species of *Crepidotus* (Oysterling) of which 2 were new to the site (the image of one of these can be seen below), together with plentiful specimens of *Mycena* (Bonnet) – in fact 11 different species including the intriguing *Mycena crocata* (Saffron Bonnet) with its amazing orange-red staining juice and often to be found on the fallen wood of Beech. It was also useful to be able to point out the significant features of the genus *Amanita* to prevent possible errors of determination with the genus *Russula* (Brittlelegill), of which one magnificent specimen of *R. cyanoxantha* (Charcoal Burner) was collected – this being a good edible in contrast to *Amanita*, a genus containing a few deadly poisonous species. Two more species new to the site were *Hydnum repandum* (Wood Hedgehog) a highly prized edible, and in contrast *Galerina marginata* (Funeral Bell), the name of which gives away the danger if eaten – another deadly poisonous species.

Early on a rather ordinary-looking whitish resupinate fungus (one that grows flat against wood with no stem, cap or gills as in a mushroom) was found growing on an Oak trunk and was unfamiliar to both Derek and me. This was later identified by Derek as *Ceriporiopsis pannocincta* (Green Porecrust), an interesting Beechwood indicator species which does occur occasionally on other deciduous trees. In the field Derek noticed its soft greeny-yellow surface with tiny pores, also its unusual smell, and it would be worth any forayers who frequent the Common returning to familiarise themselves with this species with a view to noticing if it occurs on other trees. Derek's photos of this are below also, together with those of a little brown discomycete, *Rutstroemia firma* (Brown Cup), which frequents Hazel branches, and a delightful photo of two tiny *Mycena* species close growing together.

Finally to a species of Ascomycete collected by member Nicola Adcock which Derek initially identified as possibly *Bisporella pallescens* but sent to expert Kerry Robinson for checking. This if verified would have been a rare find with less than 50 British records (only 6 this Century) and new to the County also. However, it gets better because Kerry has identified it as *Phaeohelotium subcarneum* which is not only new to the County but has on 26 British records (with 10 this Century)! Derek's images are below. Congratulations and thanks to Nicola for using her young eyes so efficiently!

For more details see the complete list.



Crepidotus epibryus on a dead leaf (possibly of Rowan).

Crepidotus species grow stalkless on wood or plant debris and need to be examined under the microscope to determine which species they are.

Four different species were found on this foray.



Rutstroemia firma (Brown Cup) on (presumably) Hazel twig at Moorend Common.
The larger disc is just over 10mm across.



The rare *Phaeohelotium subcarneum* growing on exposed wood and surrounding bark of a deciduous (Oak?) twig at Moorend Common. This Ascomycete was found by Nicola Adcock and sent by Derek to Kerry Robinson for identification, and is new to the County with less than 30 British records existing.



Pholiota squarrosa (Shaggy Scalycap) growing in a bunch from under a stump at Moorend Common.



Ceriporiopsis pannocincta (Green Porecrust) on the right with
Coniophora puteana (Wet Rot) on the left of this standing
dead Oak tree at Moorend Common.



Ceriporiopsis pannocincta photographed back home,
where the greeny-yellow colour was more evident.