

Joint BFG & Friends of Naphill Common Foray at Naphill Common
October 13th 2013

Report by Penny Cullington



Wet forayers today at Naphill. Photo © Derek Schafer

canopy and also the many recently fallen leaves due to the windy conditions. Not ideal, no, but we still managed a list of 60 species and added quite a few new to the site and one new to the County.

Most prolific today was a species of Honey Fungus not recorded here before: this was *Armillaria ostoyae* (Dark Honey Fungus) growing in large clusters around the base of both living Beech trees and also other deciduous stumps. Typical of this species is the dark dotted line visible on the underside of the stem ring; it is most often recorded on conifer but can occur on deciduous wood as well, and this particular species is not thought to be as destructive to the tree as *A. mellea* (true Honey Fungus). (This was not the day for photography in situ so my photo, right, and others below, are of necessity of collections made previously elsewhere.)

We also found many specimens of a rather soft-pored *Boletus* which a few years back we'd have named *B. chrysenteron* (Red-cracked Bolete) without giving it a second thought. However, recent research has proved this to be a complex of species but separating true *B. chrysenteron* from *B. cisalpinus* and *B. pruinus* is now far from easy, especially when the specimens are as soggy and often mouldy as today's! We did, however, record the fungus growing on these Boletes; this fungus eventually gives the afflicted fruit bodies a bright yellow coating and is called *Hypomyces chrysospermus* (Bolete Mould).



Armillaria ostoyae with its dark ring markings

We saw nice specimens of the attractive and suitably slimy *Oudemaniella mucida* (Porecelain Fungus, left) growing on living Beech trees, some fruit bodies really high up in the tree, also a large clump of *Pholiota squarrosa* (Shaggy Scalycap) at the base of the same host tree. (Photos of both these species are overleaf.)

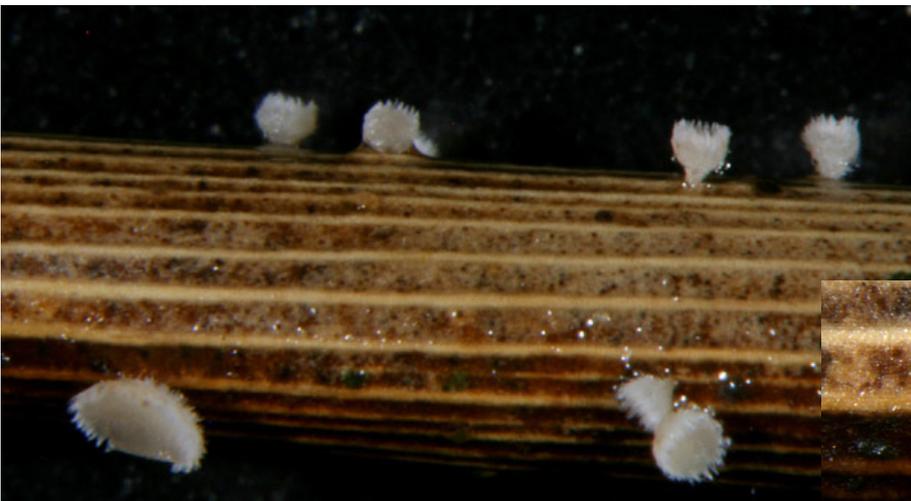


Oudemansiella mucida (left) with its translucent slimy caps and dark ring.

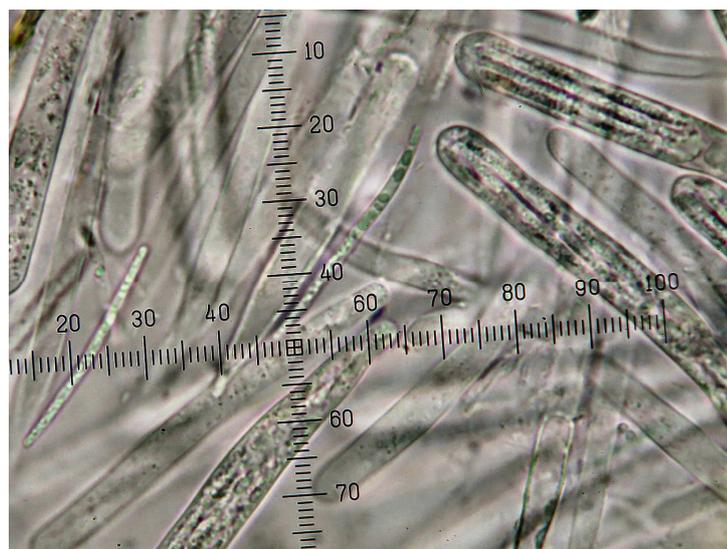


Pholiota squarrosa (right) a species we found today at Naphill Common

Derek searched amongst the dead stems of *Juncus* to find a miniscule species, one of the ‘spore-shooters’, called *Lachnum apalum* (Rush Disco). At home afterwards he took the series of photos shown below using specialist equipment to produce such fine detail and magnification. The fruit bodies are only 0.5mm across at most. Using a compound microscope, the ‘hairs’ visible around the edge of the fruit bodies below can be seen in the third photo (overleaf) greatly magnified.



Lachnum apalum, a species which grows on *Juncus* stems
Photos © Derek Schafer



The hairs of *Lachnum apalum* (above left) greatly magnified. Above right can be seen the asci (typical sausage-shaped sacs, each of which contain eight spores) which give this group of fungi - the Ascomycetes (Spore-shooters) - their name. There are two long thin individual spores visible outside the asci here with green contents, they are 30 microns long. The scale shown in both photos is 1 micron per division. Photos © Derek Schafer

Derek also worked on a specimen of *Conocybe* at home, one of several genera (families of fungi) affectionately known as LBJs – Little Brown Jobs! This proved worthwhile as it turned out to be new to the County – *Conocybe brachypodii*, with just 29 British records to date, so quite a rarity.

For more details of what we found see the complete list.

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