

## FUNGI WALK at WHIPSNADDE ZOO on WEDNESDAY October 10<sup>th</sup> 2018

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This foray was joint with the Herts & Beds Fungi Group and was attended by fifteen participants of which about half were from H&BFG and the rest from BFG. The weather was very pleasant but conditions were exceedingly dry. In consequence fungal fruit bodies were hard to find and the list only comprised 59 species, less than a third of the number recorded on the 2017 foray here. Nonetheless there were several species new for the site. The best find was probably *Lactarius bertillonii* which was actually in the car park. Other things were not ignored and most participants enjoyed some time in the Butterfly House at the end of the afternoon.

Images below show:

- 1 The dung beetle *Aphodius contaminatus* found I think by Roger Kemp though it attracted the attention of several people.
- 2 The tiny ant species *Plagiolepis alluaudi* which was in the butterfly house. This is a synanthropic species (i.e. only found indoors in the UK) and only known from three sites in the country. It has previously been found by members of the Beds Invertebrate Group in the old Discovery Centre at Whipsnade.
- 3 The fungus *Pandora neoaphidis* which is specific to aphids, attacking a wide range of species. It can wipe out whole colonies. Other species of Fungi can also attack aphids.





