

HOCKERIDGE WOOD FORAY

Sunday, March 3rd 2013 Leader Penny Cullington

Penny Cullington

As last year, this was a joint foray with the Herts / Beds Fungi Group, and a small group of around 14 enjoyed a chilly but rain free morning though conditions were somewhat dry and unproductive for fungi. Last year this foray produced a list of 33 species, this year we found even less (that were nameable by us at any rate), making it to just 29. Gilled fungi were conspicuous by their absence, thus we were left struggling with sundry brackets, corticioids, tiny cups and dots on sticks and leaves etc.

It was good to rekindle a collection of the rarely recorded *Hypocrea minutispora* growing in the identical spot where we found it last year, enabling us to confirm that the substrate and association was a fallen branch of Rowan. This was a collection which Derek worked on and named following our foray last year and which was then confirmed by expert Walter Jaklitsch. See Derek's photos below.

Also below are Derek's excellent photos showing the microscopy of *Phellinus ferreus* (Cinnamon porecrust). This is a common species on fallen deciduous branches, though there is another much rarer species of *Phellinus*, *P. ferruginosus* (Rusty porecrust), which is well-nigh impossible to distinguish from *P. ferreus* in the field. The only safe way is to check with a microscope for the rusty brown spiky hairs (setae) which in *P. ferruginosus* occur in all parts of the context of the fruitbody but in *P. ferreus* can be found only in the hymenium (the spore-producing outer layer of the fruitbody).

See the complete list of species for more details.



Hypocrea minutispora on the bark of a fallen Rowan branch at Hockeridge Wood 11.03.12.



Hypocrea minutispora, showing the 'pock-marked' surface typical of the genus.



Hypocrea minutispora, showing a closer view of the surface.



Hypocrea minutispora, a cross section showing the round chambers just beneath the surface from which the spores are ejected.



Phellinus ferreus from Hockeridge Wood, 03.03.13, showing a close-up of the pore surface. (The scales shows millimetres.)



Phellinus ferreus, a cross section showing the long thin hymenial chambers which lie just beneath the pores.



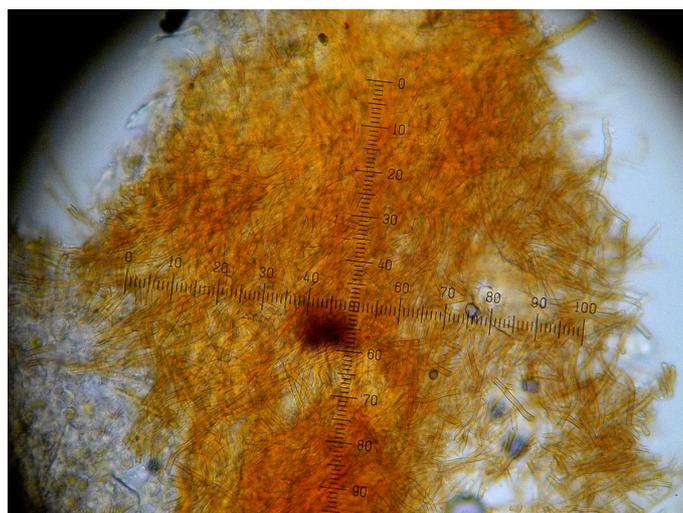
Phellinus ferreus, a closer view of the chambers with the setae - brown spikes - of this species just visible.



Phellinus ferreus, showing an individual chamber with setae now more obvious.



Phellinus ferreus, a microscopic view of the setae to be found only in the hymenial tissue of this species.



Finally, a microscopic view of tissue from elsewhere in the fruitbody of *Phellinus ferreus* showing no setae, and thus eliminating *P. ferruginosus* from the determination.