

## CLITOCYBE COSTATA.

Found on 19th July 2003.

Painted on 21st July.

The clitocybes were found on a grassy bank. The woodland was mixed. They were growing amongst wild strawberries.



CAP - 3 cms across.

intermediate gills.

stipe shape in section.

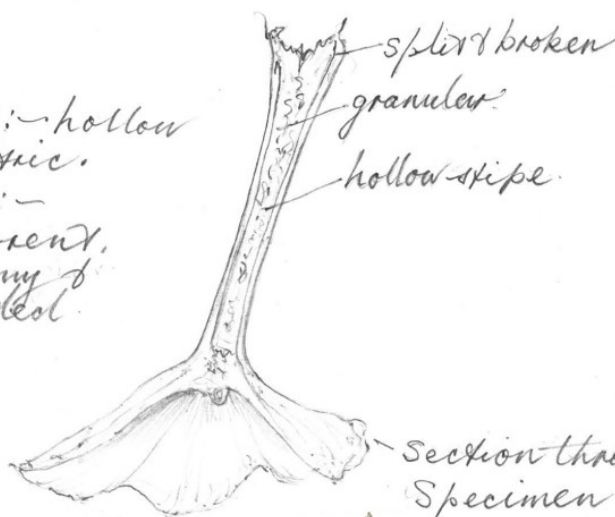
under-view of specimen 2.

LIFE-SIZE.



STIPE: - hollow eccentric.

GILLS: - decurrent, creamy & crowded.



Section through Specimen 1.

Under-view showing the gill arrangement of intermediate gills.

*Clitocybe costata* is very similar to *C. indibutiformis* - but the colour is richer.

Side view of Specimen 2.



D. E. Wolfe.



# Contents

|                                                         |         |                |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| <b>Directions to Slack's Wood Foray</b>                 | Page 4  |                |
| <b>Directions to Hollingside Woods foray</b>            | Page 5  |                |
| <b>Our Summer Foray</b>                                 | Page 6  | Alan Legg      |
| <b>Extracts from the diary of an amateur mycologist</b> | Page 7  | Tom Kirby      |
| <b>Microfungi on Beech twigs</b>                        | Page 10 | Kerry Robinson |

Front Cover: *Clitocybe costata* at Low Force Teesdale

Painted by Dorothy Wolfe.



*Amanita Excelsa* at Low Force Teesdale

Photo: Keith Cunningham

For further information or if you would like to submit an article or questions for the next newsletter, please contact Leader: Alan Legg at 36, Carleton Drive, Darlington, Co Durham, DL3 9QP. Tel : 01325 - 350834. Membership Sec, Babs Walton, Stodhoe Farm, Middleton-St-George, Darlington, Co Durham, DL2 1DS. Tel: 01325 332789. Chairman: Gordon Simpson, 2 Coniston Avenue, West Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 9LL Treasurer, Tom Kirby, 4, Bishopton Crossings, Stillington, Stockton -on-Tees, Cleveland. Newsletter Secretary: Keith Cunningham, 1 Grove Cottages, Baybridge, Blanchland, Consett, Co Durham DH8 9UB email [keith.cunningham@ntlworld.com](mailto:keith.cunningham@ntlworld.com) Tel: 01434 675339



Affiliated with The Association of  
British Fungus Groups



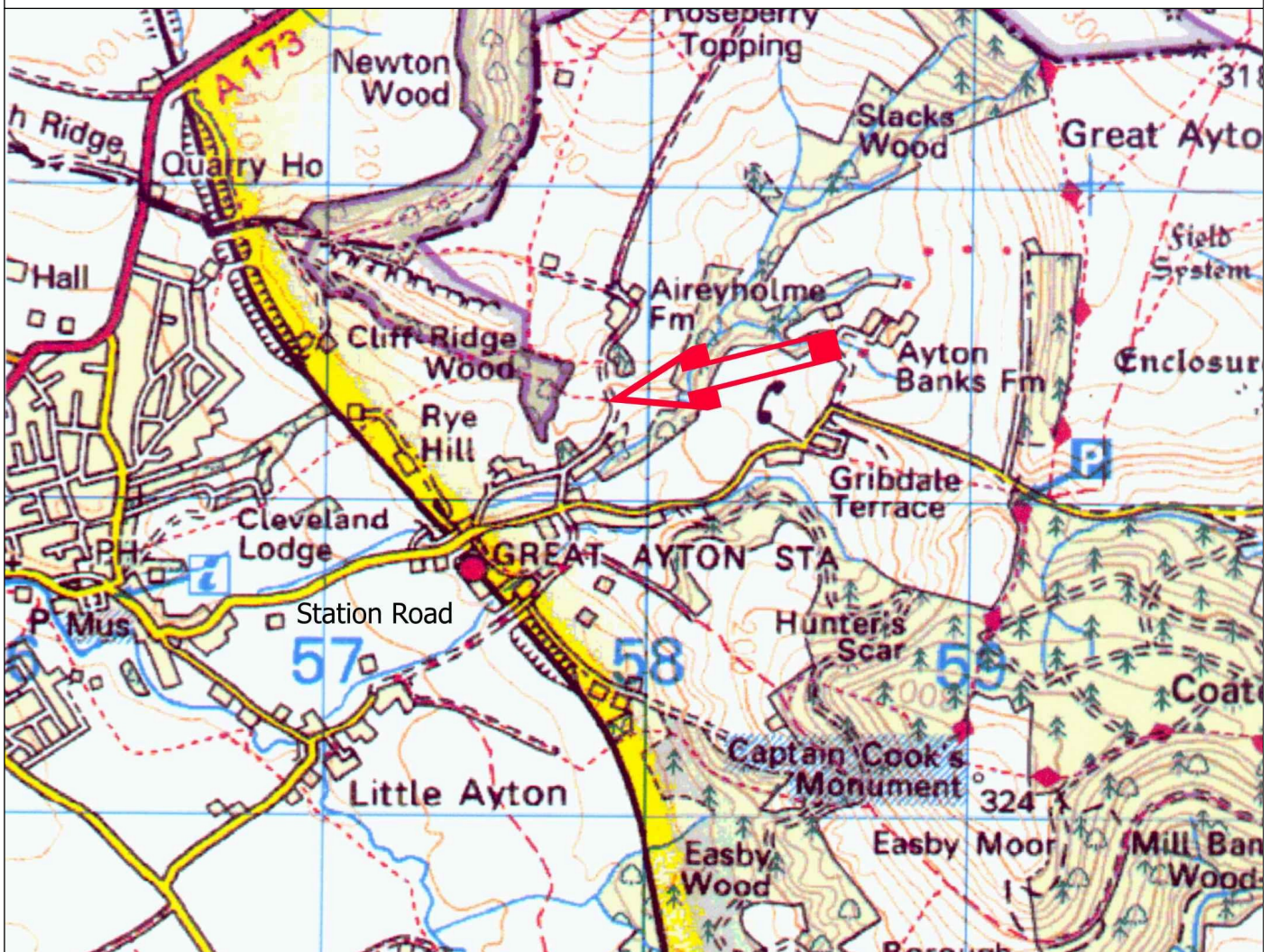
Affiliated to the British Mycological Society



This Newsletter is produced with the  
assistance of Durham Wildlife Trust

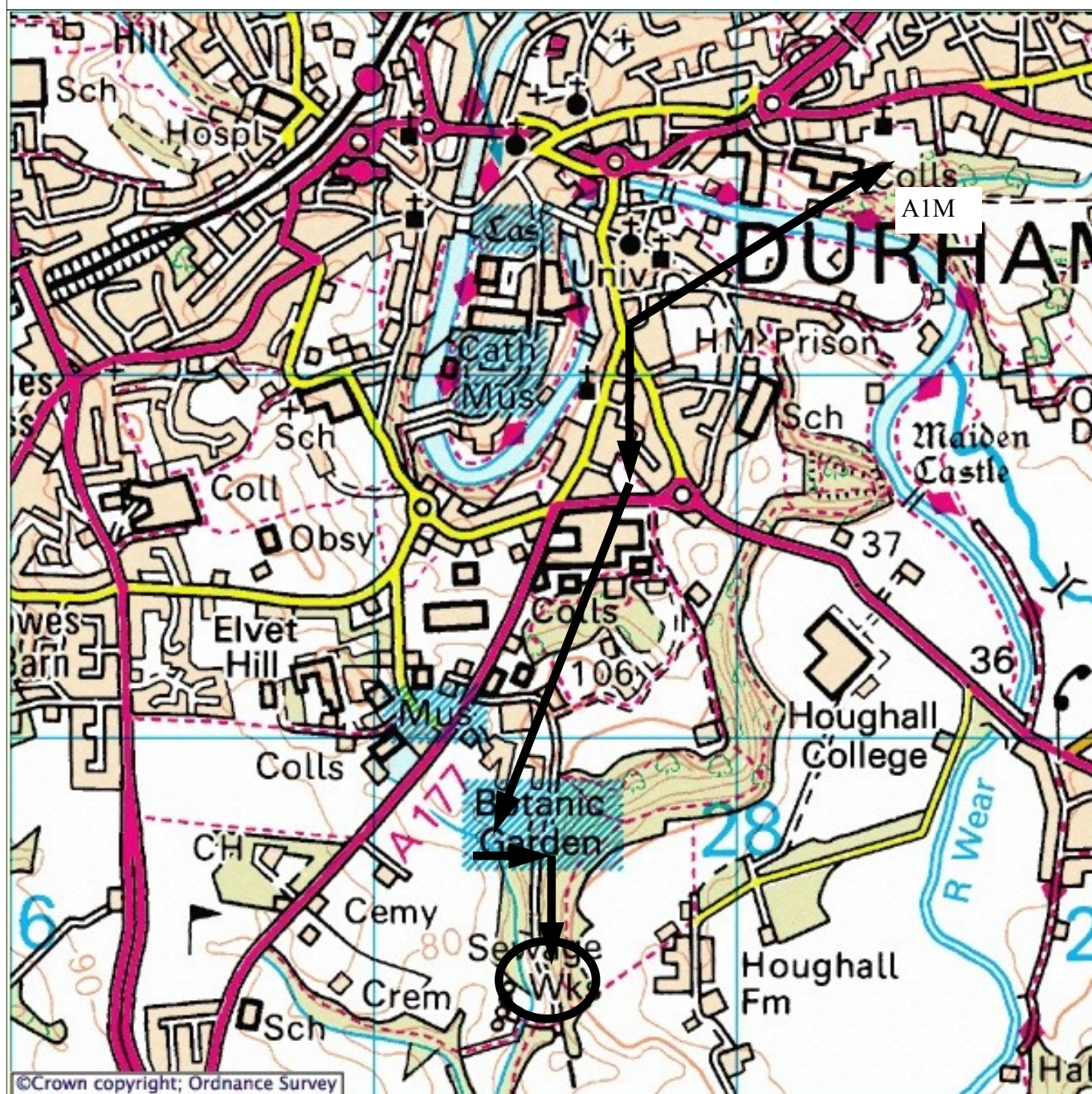
## Slack's Wood Foray Saturday 11th October NZ578113

Follow the road out of Great Ayton just east of the High Green towards Ayton Station. Pass over the Station Bridge heading towards Gribdale but after approximately 300yds. turn LEFT just before passing between two white houses. This is the track to Aireyholme Farm. The road is good with plenty of verge parking and there is also a gap on the right side which is suitable with care. The red arrow shows the point where a public footpath from Cliff Ridge Wood emerges, and this is where it is intended that we begin the foray. When this map was drawn Slack's Wood was a lot smaller than it is now but we are only expecting to foray in the old South Woods. There are not many well marked paths and so going can be a little rough.



## Hollingside Woods/Botanic Gardens 8th November 10.30am

Meet at the earlier time of 10.30 at the Botanic Gardens car park. Follow the map and the signs to the botanic gardens. We will collect specimens from the adjacent Hollingside woods for later analysis by microscope. Mike Hughes the head Gardener has kindly given us space in one of the greenhouses to set up our microscopes.



## Our Summer Foray Teesdale 19th July 2003

Alan Legg

A few regulars were unable to attend for one reason or another but we had a good showing for a site so far west. Forecasters had threatened us with heavy showers but, in the event, although the skies darkened near lunch-time, the spattering of rain-drops barely caused us to break step. We parked at the Bowlees car park west of Middleton-in-Teesdale and, in the morning, walked upstream to Gibson's Cave, returning for lunch in the car-park. In a quarried area to the right of the path, usually good for orchids, we found several specimens of an unusual toadstool with decurrent gills and a deeply fluted cap rim. This was not identified immediately but turned out to be *Clitocybe costata*, a species new to County Durham and with no Yorkshire records either! The greenish larch bolete, *Suillus viscidus* (*aeruginascens*), and the almost invisible Golden Saxifrage Rust, *Puccinia chrysospleni*, were also found near the cave, both third records for VC66.

In the afternoon, we crossed the main road and made our way across pasture to the area of mixed mature woodland just north of Winch Bridge. This is a small but fruitful area for fungi which has produced a number of new County records in the past. It did not disappoint on this occasion either. Although a rumoured collection of *Strobilomyces floccopus*, the Old Man of the Woods, turned out to be over-optimistic, a small toadstool spotted under larch by Pat Wood, was immediately recognisable as *Gomphidius maculatus*, a little-recorded species with black flecks on the lower stem, only the second collection for VC66. When handled, the whole fungus begins to blacken and, on drying, eventually becomes completely black. Peter Manuel unearthed a fascinatingly distorted specimen of *Polyporus melanopus*, one of the less com-



*Gomphidius maculatus*

mon members of this genus with a completely black stem, apparently growing on soil but usually attached to shallow dead roots.

The best collection from this area was seen rather late in the day, a small, rather dingy-looking *Amanita* with light spots on a pale brownish cap, found by Keith Cunningham. It can be distinguished by a narrow volva clasping the stem base. Alan dared not name it at first but, later at home, he soon pinned it down definitely as *Amanita eliae*. He had seen it only once before when he made the first Yorkshire collection of this toadstool at Maybeck, near Whitby, in August 1992. The BMSFRD has only 17 records. This species is newly-recorded for VC66.

The day's modest total was 70 identified species but quality more than made up for quantity with three new records for VC66 and three species (not all the same ones) which Alan had never seen before.

## Extracts from the diary of an amateur mycologist.

Tom Kirby

I have often attempted to follow and record photographically the growth of a particular fungus. Sometimes I have failed as my estimate of the speed of growth of my subject has been wildly pessimistic, resulting in perhaps just one photograph at the start of the sequence and another at the end, with no pictures in between. Sometimes I have failed because the subject stubbornly refused to “grow”, remaining no more than a neophyte for days on end before finally succumbing to mouldy decay. *Meripilus giganteus* is prone to this.

This year I was lucky. I visited an old cemetery site just outside Sedgefield (NZ362294) as I had noticed some extremely fine specimens of *Polyporus squamosus* the previous year. The fungus grew on several trees, sycamore and ash, and one or two had reached enormous proportions. This one quite literally fell out of its tree under its own



weight a few days after this picture was taken (August 6<sup>th</sup> 2002). It was 59cms at its widest diameter.

Practically all the observable specimens were growing triumphantly from the wound sites of fallen branches, where rot was established. It is “chicken and egg” as to whether the fungus caused the rot and the branch to subsequently fall, or the branch simply snapped off leaving a suitable point of ingress for the fungus. It was partly to resolve this issue that I returned to the site this year, a little earlier in the season than the year before.

30<sup>th</sup> July. WEDNESDAY

*Ste. Juillette* A fine morning following a pleasantly warm night but with a downpour just before dawn. Cannot find trousers from the night before but remember taking them off just before ablutions so am confident they will turn up. Find trousers on kitchen floor. Ask no questions as am sure wife put them there for a very good reason. Put on clean trousers but cannot find belt. All other belts in belt drawer are useless, being designed for boys. Remember belt on yesterday's trousers so return to kitchen but yesterday's trousers now gone again. Ask no questions as wife has obviously moved them for very good reason. Put on shirt, which is miraculously lying on bed, and leave tail out to hide no belt on trousers. Comfortable but not mechanically stable. Note that I must be losing weight in butt region as trousers continually slip down from waist. Good sign.

**10 a.m. Site Visit BRANDON.**

Arrive on site and wait for one hour but visit cancelled as GF not turned up. Suspect he cannot find his trousers. Return via Sedgefield and visit cemetery with extra-large battered cod for lunch. No chips as do not wish to jeopardise weight-loss



progress. Eat cod and whilst so doing notice strange outcropping on nearby tree. Take picture 12:09. Clean grease off camera until 12:38.

1<sup>st</sup> August. FRIDAY

White Rabbits. Early start today as do not wish to miss opportunity of securing trousers before “very good reasons” start to move them about. Walk down track before breakfast and shoot rabbit. Only ever shoot blind or brave. This brave. Damn. Now have to skin it. Skin rabbit but get blood on trousers. Change trousers for another pair laid out, miraculously, on bed. Put blooded trousers on kitchen floor but am advised that this

not a good idea and that there are “very good reasons” why this so. Zero gain situation. Give up.  
NOTE! Subject of separate discussion later in day to be future placement of discarded trousers when in various conditions. Not recorded here.

Marinade jointed rabbit in Guinness, honey and coriander. Note this for future inclusion in yet-to-be-published Rural Recipe Book. Maybe add mushroom *jus* from tinned Shitake. Add to rural authenticity. Wonder how *P.squamosus* doing in cemetery. Decide to visit on way to site visit in Barnard Castle using taxi route. Ring first to ensure presence of be-trousered GF. OK.

**NOTE! Site visit B/castle 11:30**



09:40. Take picture of same *P.squamosus* less than 48 hours later!

11:25 Arrive Bcastle. GF in attendance. Discuss power requirements for Stage one of installation in great detail.

11:27 GF has to leave following urgent call on mobile. Suspect has “very good reason” on other end of phone as frozen peas mentioned.

3rd.August

SUNDAY

*Ste. Lydie*. Very warm and sunny. Up at crack of noon.

**NOTE! Organise party for Wetlands Safari, Eston. 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Weather superb. Need to get out. Can go to Foxton Covert. Can go to Bleach House Woods. Can go to Elstob Covert. Can go to Sedgefield to check on *P.squamosus*. Can spend afternoon ironing trousers. Iron trousers. There are very good reasons for this. Negotiate release for 21:00 hrs. Eat defrosted rabbit in Guinness with honey, coriander and apple, finished with a little cream. Excellent. NOTE. Add to Rural Recipes soonest. Glad omitted *jus* de Shitake as would

reduced authenticity. Wife found air rifle pellet. 21:55. Sedgefield cemetery. Darkish. Need to use flash. Do not know how as camera new. Phone wife on mobile to check instruction book. Not best pleased as filling dropped out. Return home and am abused re.air rifle pellet in rabbit. Unreasonable as wife only lost filling, not been shot like rabbit. Get instruction book and return to peace of cemetery by night. Left glasses so cannot read instructions. Take five pictures of underside of nasal passages, perfect exposure. Confidence high. Take picture of *P.squamosus*. Time 22:59.



4<sup>th</sup> August.

MONDAY

*St J.-M. Vianney*

Summer Bank Holiday

(Scotland) As am half Scottish decide to take half-day off. Find lost belt, miraculously, in belt drawer. Choose from wide selection of trousers. Ironed to perfection. Decide to take early lunch at Didier's. Phone. Closed Mondays. Just as well as cannot find clean shirt. Iron shirts. There are very good reasons for this.

## Looking at Microfungi

Alan Legg

I have recently been exchanging news and information with Kerry Robinson, an enthusiastic (and largely self-taught) mycologist from Baldock, Herts. Kerry sent me a copy of a little article she wrote in response to a request from the editor of the Herts Fungus Group's Newsletter. I liked the article and asked permission to reprint it in our own Newsletter. Kerry was delighted to be of help so here (with an absolute minimum of editorial interference!) is her article.

### MICROFUNGI ON BEECH TWIGS

KERRY ROBINSON

I was asked to write something on microfungi and how to go about finding them. I immediately thought of old nettle stems being loved by many ascomycetes and common everywhere. Then I thought most of the group know *Leptosphaeria acuta* *Callorina neglecta* and a few of the common species. It was only after receiving a letter from Alan Legg of the North Eastern Fungus Group telling me of some of his finds, particularly those on dead attached Beech twigs, I decided this would be the substrate to look at. He had collected several species I hadn't seen and one I hadn't even heard of, so after flicking through the pages of Ellis and Ellis on Beech related species, I headed off to my local Beech wood armed with my X20 lens to see what I could find.

With the almost drought like conditions of March and April, it was hardly worth looking down all the time, so looking up made a very nice change. I started picking off small dead twigs and examining them I soon realised a lot of the small holes were dead (empty), but I persevered and found some tiny flat dots and a few slightly raised looking spots breaking through the bark. On arriving home I would wrap a piece of wet kitchen towel around them and leave them to absorb some moisture for the day, then in the evening see if I could see anything under the microscope. I dug my scalpel into the slightly raised dot and a whitish/grey looking jelly squeezed out. Mounting this in the usual way, in a drop of water, asci and spores could be seen. In this case the spores were slightly curved or sausage shaped and ranged in size from 15 - 18 x 3um.

It matched perfectly for *Quaternaria quaternata* which 'Ellis' reports as common on gale fallen branches. Digging around more black dots I soon found *Neohendersonia kickxii*, this just produces spores which are mostly 2 septate, smoky brown with a pale basal cell. This belongs to the Coelomycete group and is thought to be the anamorph stage of *Splanchnonema loricatum*, which I had been specifically searching for.

Collecting more twigs over several outings, I found more likely looking perithecia inside split bark slits. On mounting, these were what I had been searching for. The large spores of *Splanchnonema loricatum* ranging from 33 - 43 x 13 - 16um, the asci broken down which is usual in this group, it was first reported from Britain in March 1998 from Baydale, Darlington, Co. Durham by Alan Legg, but has since been found by Brian Spooner on Esher Common.

It is known from various varieties of Beech and has also been collected on Hazel (see Mycologist Feb. 2000, Vol. 14, part 1, page 29).

Another very attractive find under the microscope were the star shaped spores of another Coelomycete called *Asterosporium asterospermum*. Again rising from a small split in the bark to expose a mass of dark brown/black powder. (These beat Agaric spores). Some very thin twigs were covered in slightly raised areas, greyish/white with black dots in the centre. On mounting, there were hundreds of very thin sausage shaped spores 5 - 7 x 1 um to be seen. This was *Cytospora ambiens*, this is not specific to Beech and can be commonly found on other trees.

With more twigs come different spores floating under the microscope slides. This time a Hyphomycete not specific to Beech but quite distinctive usually with 3 septate spores, and a few of which were longitudinal septate, these ranged in size from 15.5 - 17 x 7um. It matched well for *Camarosporium ambiens*.

There are other species I have been looking for and I did find two of them, *Massarina eburnea*, and *Asteromassaria macrospora*, at Killiecrankie in Scotland on the BMS Spring Foray. As yet I haven't found them locally, but they are sure to be here somewhere. I hope you too will go out and look at dead attached twigs with renewed interest.

It wasn't until writing this article that I thought what is the difference between a Coelomycete and a Hyphomycete?. I had to admit I didn't know, but it was explained to me by Tom Hering very simply. Coelomycetes start their reproduction within the plant, Hyphomycetes start on the Plant.