

North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter 67 November 2012



Stemonitis fusca . Canon EOS . Auto 1/4 sec ISO 400. Location Flass Vale. Paul Forster

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The NEFSG actively encourages contributions from the membership for publication in this Newsletter. The content of submitted articles is the responsibility of the author. The views, comments, opinions or statements contained in published articles are not necessarily those of the NEFSG or of the editorial personnel. The NEFSG reserves the right to refuse publication of any material considered offensive or dangerously inaccurate. For identity queries please contact the Group Consultant: Alan Legg at 36, Carleton Drive, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 9QP. Tel: 01325 350834. Secretary: Alan Bunn, 60 Roseberry Crescent, Great Ayton, North Yorks. TS9 6EP. Tel. 01642724955 E-mail alanbunn456@btinternet.com. Chairman: Alan Simkins. Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Tom Kirby. If you would like to submit an article or question for the next Newsletter contact Tom Kirby, 4 Bishopton Crossings, Stillington, TS21 1NJ. Tel: 01740 630179 E-mail: tectak@aol.com.



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November.....

By now, most of the NEFSG members will be in recovery mode, having forayed far and wide (well, further than usual but no wider than Simkins) during 2012.

The season seemed to be on the cusp for quite some time then round about mid-October things started to happen. Some species, though, were all but absent this year. The Boletes just did not make it to the party. Reports from all over the country (England, that is) bemoaned the absence of the genus. There were theories in abundance but the simplest reason given, and for me the most significant, was the cold wet, summer. Weather conditions may well have been causative in the poor showing but there were other less direct circumstances to take into account; slugs spring to mind.

Slugs. What a great year for slugs. I watched several promising young boletes, including a fine group of *Boletus edulis* on the wooded slopes above Ingleby Greenhow, fall victim to these voracious mycofages. No sooner had the fruit-bodies appeared on a Sunday foray, than they were consumed by my follow-up on Wednesday. Some survived and I left well alone, but along came the deluge days and the next attack began. *Hypomyces chrysospermus*, the bolete infecting ascomycete (not Myxomycete, as I regularly correct myself on forays) has had a great year.

Not surprisingly, our records show a steep decline in the number and species of Boletes recorded, one each of *Boletus badius*, *Boletus edulis* and *Boletus luridiformis* by September, a couple of *B.chrysenteron* in October and that was about it. Last year we managed several *Boletus badius*, a brace or two of *Boletus chrysenteron*, a feast of *Boletus edulis*, a host *Boletus erythropus*, a find of *Boletus ferrugineus*, an appearance of *Boletus reticulatus*, and a tasting (yuk) of *Chalciporus piperatus* (OK, as was Boletus. Recorded this year, too...stop press),.

From reports from other groups, notably individuals who contribute to forums regularly, the South of the country, West and East has been particularly sparse. It will be interesting to see if things improve next year or will we witness a decline similar to that of the edible Agarics. Where are the Field Mushrooms? Is this a cyclical affair or has some one-off environmental circumstance taken them? Some might say that under-recording is the main statistical parameter, but right here I can say that this is not the case. The old favourites, *A. campestris* and *A. arvensis* have just not been about in any numbers for the last few years.

It would be to simplistic to suggest that the relatively low frequency of either of these species could be attributed to their "collectability" but much media attention is given to the issue of over-collecting of "edible" species, (which can include inedible by mis-identification), but there does seem to be a "local" correlation between the known sites where such prolific gathering occurs and the sudden reduction in recorded finds.

Of course, it could just be the weather.

No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds, no boletes...

November!

For those who can, see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Azm4O6UIgnk>

TAK

Recording Protocol.... A few notes.

- 1) If a foray member believes that a record has been credited to him/her in error the record will stand unless a correction is submitted. Any such corrections must be acceptable to all parties and should be resolved amicably, outside the forum of the NEFSG. The NEFSG will not arbitrate in the event of disputed records and accordingly such issues must be handled entirely between individual members. Any changes required should be accompanied by details of the foray venue and should confirm acceptance by both parties. Changes should be made within the time span between the circulation of the provisional compilation list and submission to the National Databases. This period is variable but normally greater than one month and so corrections in this category must be made within one month from the provisional list circulation date.
- 2) If a foray member believes that a record has been credited to another member in error the record will stand unless a correction is submitted. Any such corrections must be acceptable to all parties and should be resolved amicably, outside the forum of the NEFSG. The NEFSG will not arbitrate in the event of disputed records and accordingly such issues must be handled entirely between individual members. Any changes required should be accompanied by details of the foray venue and should confirm acceptance by both parties. Changes should be made within the time span between the circulation of the provisional compilation list and submission to the National Databases. This period is variable but normally greater than one month and so corrections in this category must be made within one month from the provisional list circulation date.
- 3) Where any species is found on more than one occasion on the same foray but by different members the acceptance of the record shall be based upon a **difference in Substrate**. In other words, the same species on the same substrate on the same foray will be regarded as a duplication regardless of how many records are made by different members on the day. In the case of such duplications, the accepted record will be that with the most details included (i.e. Associated Species, Determiner, Confirmer) or if a "tie" the first occurrence on the Record Sheet after an alphabetical "sort" has taken place. Other records will be deleted.
- 4) SPECIES which are recorded as (*Genus*) *Sp.* cannot be accepted.
- 5) Members wishing to include records of species not identified on the day MUST provide a FULL record within one month from the provisional list circulation date. It is very important that the CONFIRMER is identified in such cases. Of course, extended time consideration will be given if a voucher specimen has been sent to the BMS or ABFG for determination provided that notification is given. See (6) below. To make identification possible it is essential that when members take specimens from forays, in order to carry out microscopic identification, that ALL details are obtained. **The Field Slip should be taken with the specimen** so that the Foray Owner does not record the find without confirmation of identification.
- 6) In the event of a requirement to send off a voucher specimen (To BMS or ABFG) in order to authenticate the find, the record WILL be included upon confirmation, provided that such confirmation is received within one month from the provisional list circulation date or notification of delay is given. It is important to include the NAME of the CONFIRMER. Late confirmations at any time outside this period will be inserted into the Foray Record before submission to the National Databases if possible, or will be included in another record set, for future submission. A confirmation of the option will be sent to the member submitting the record,.
- 7) Except as above, all other requested alterations to the provisional list must be made within one month from the provisional list circulation date.
- 8) In the event of a notified alleged mis-identification, the record cannot be accepted until resolution and then only as in 6) above. If a correction is to be accepted it must be acceptable to all parties and should be resolved amicably, outside the forum of the NEFSG. The NEFSG will not arbitrate in the event of alleged mis-identifications and accordingly such issues must be handled entirely between individual members. All we ask is that the record is accurate when finally presented for inclusion.
- 9) The use of out-of-date names is acceptable but they will be updated on the Provisional List whenever spotted. The Foray Owner bears some responsibility for correcting "names" but even if the final list is submitted to the National Databases with errors in species names, the "error trapping" built in to the recording programs will automatically correct such errors. When looking up records on either the FRDBI or CATE2 please bear this in mind. What do I do if a SPECIES does not appear on my version of the Valuation Recording Sheet? See next page.
- 10) Finally, please note that it can be time consuming compiling the list from foray field slips without the added problem of indecipherability and/or missing information. Due to the limitation of space on the foray slips the omission of the Determiner's name is common. Any additional information can be written on the BACK of the slip otherwise it will not be part of the record.

Missing Species Names in the VRS Database

Due to constant name changes and general progress in the classification of species, you will occasionally find that a species you wish to insert in the "species" box of the Validation Recording Sheet (VRS) results in an error notification. You can just leave this species off the list and send a note with your submitted VRS. Alternatively, you may wish to correct the record and the database yourself.

You may have obviously mis-spelled the name in which case the Error Notification option is "Retry". Whilst this is a good exercise in memory recall it is sometimes quicker, and more useful, to take the "Cancel" option and use the drop-down arrowhead at the bottom-right corner of the highlighted (click in it) box. You can now scroll down and "search" for your find. If it is there, left-click on it and off you go. **If it is not there**, please carry out the following procedure.

- i) Go to <http://www.indexfungorum.org/Names/Names.asp>, the internationally accepted directory.
- ii) Left-click on the option circle for "Name".
- iii) Insert the Genus name only of your find into the Search Term box and left-click on "Search" to the right of the search box.
- iv) Up will come a list of ALL of the currently accepted names in that genus.
- v) Scroll down to locate your find. **NOTE.** If there is a species on the same line in green text then

that is the currently accepted name. For example, if you searched on *Marasmius androsaceus*, this is what you will find:

[Marasmius androsaceus](#) (L.) Fr. 1838, (also see Species Fungorum: [Gymnopus androsaceus](#)); [Marasmiaceae](#)

Gymnopus androsaceus is the current accepted name.

- vi) Now go back to the VRS and try with the correct name. If it is still not permitted then you can either update the database yourself or again, omit the find, and add a note with your VRS records when sending in for inclusion. If you wish to correct the database yourself follow these simple instructions:
 - a) You must "unprotect" the sheet to carry out these instructions. Click out of the cell you were working in so that nothing is highlighted on the VRS then go to the top toolbar of your Excel Spreadsheet and left-click **Tools>Protection>Unprotect sheet**. (Note, if the protection is already "off" the option will be "protect Sheet").
 - b) You will be asked for a password. The password is whisky.
 - c) Now left-click the bottom coloured "tab" designated **"Species List"** and up will come ALL of the species names in the database. Go to the bottom of the list and CORRECTLY type in the species name which you have identified as missing.
 - d) Now scroll right to the top of the list and place the cursor in the header box column "A". The cursor will become a "down" arrow. Left-click to highlight the Species List then go to the top toolbar and find the "A-Z sort" button. Left-click. This will "sort" the list alphabetically, A down to Z, incorporating the new species name.
 - e) Go to the bottom coloured "tabs" and left-click on **"Recording Sheet"**. You are now back to the Record Validation page. Input your record as normal. It will now be accepted.
 - f) **It is your option to re-protect the sheet.** To do so, got to **Tools>Protection>Protect sheet** and enter the password when requested.

This is not a difficult procedure though it seems so if you are not in front of your computer. It is very important that you NOTIFY the change you have made to the database when you submit your VRS for inclusion. By doing so, you will help to keep the Master VRS up to date. VRS Revisions will be sent to you from time to time. Please use the latest version and delete older versions.

One very important final point, When creating a VRS for a foray or for your own records, open the program and go to **File>Save as** with a reference name for the foray (or for your own records) Otherwise you will not have a "template" for future records.

If you get stuck, contact me, Tom Kirby on 01740630179 or e-mail me: tectak@aol.com



For those of you brave enough to contemplate forays into unknown territory with the Great British Public hanging on your every word, the reliable appearance of the stoical Sycamore Tar Spot is a constant comfort when all else seems to be in short supply. Though it is not possible to present an impromptu disquisition on this ubiquitous ascomycete, lasting for more than a minute or two (air quality indicator, biotrophic pathogen, sulphur dioxide, cosmetic effect only etc.) it nonetheless does give one an opportunity to take the my-

cological high ground.

You can see it, there, on its favourite host, in the picture above, the black spot we are all so familiar with and the darling of the desperate foray leader. But wait a moment, what are all those WHITE spots....surely they are different spots? Well, yes, they are; and if you seek to impress by your verbal dexterity in reeling off *Rhytisma acerinum* you will be delighted to hear that the white spots are a sign of *Cristulariella depraedans*.

Though there are only 82 instances of this Acer pathogen in the FRDBI there may be reasonable grounds for suspected under-recording; there are 5472 records of *R. acerinum* but I have it on good authority that wet summers are a pre-cursor to outbreaks of *C. depraedans*...though the presence of the tiny, pin-head sized fruit -bodies are needed for a "record"... so we may be seeing more in the future! Provided, that is, you can spot the difference.

TAK

Feast your eyes on this...

Fistulina hepatica is one of those "milestone" finds. Though not considered rare it is elusive. For the bracket to reach this size is unlikely on the Continent where it is coveted as a good edible. Page (7) shows a delighted young forayer holding a somewhat mauled specimen which was found in a chink in the bark of a large fallen trunk of *Quercus* sp., its usual host, at Castle Eden Dene. The picture (right) is by Paul Forster.



Fistulina hepatica Canon Eos 40D, Canon 2.8 Macro Lens, AV 10, Exposure Compensation – 1.1/3, ISO 320
Plessey Woods 25-09-10

TAK

Season to Taste...

From our captive Mycophage, Jon Bemrose, a recipe for

Vegetarian "black pudding" with Amethyst Deceivers en croute and watercress garnish.



For the vegetarian "black pudding":

1x400g tin of black beans, drained (240g net)
1 clove garlic, crushed/finely chopped
1/2 a nutmeg, grated fine (or 1/2 teaspoon)
1/2 teaspoon ground mace
6 to 12 pitted black olives (depends on how salty you want)
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
150g finely chopped mushrooms (dark gilled field are ok)
50g Quorn mince (can be omitted)
2 tablespoons uncooked rice.

Method:

Blitz the beans, garlic, olives nutmeg and mace (& Quorn if using) in food processor

Remove to a bowl

Blitz or finely chop the mushrooms.

Combine the bean mix, mushrooms and the rice and mix well together.

Check seasoning and adjust if needed.

Lay two layers of cling film approximately 500mm long on a flat surface

Centrally place the mix in a "sausage" shape to about 250mm long

Carefully roll tight, twisting the ends, you should be able to tie the ends.

Repeat with two more layers of cling film.

The filling may seem soft but the rice will absorb it as it cooks.

In suitably sized pan place the "pudding" and pour over boiling water from the kettle to just cover. Bring to the boil then reduce the heat to simmer for 30 to 40 minutes.

Carefully remove from the pan to a plate, allow to cool then refrigerate overnight to fully set.

With the cling film still on, cut slices with a sharp knife.

Carefully remove the film from each slice and shallow fry in hot oil & butter, 2-3 mins each side

Serve with a toasted or fried croute, topped with sautéed Amethyst Deceivers, and garnish with watercress. A poached egg would also go well on the side.

Jon Bemrose 2012

Castle Eden Dene Convert!

Following a very enjoyable foray for English Nature in September, a forwarded e-mail arrived.

From: tracy greener [xxxxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com]

Sent: 13 September 2012 20:12

To: Davies, Joe (NE)

Subject: Re: fungi photo!



Hi,

Many thanks for the fungi foray at the weekend. It was such a lovely day.

I've attached the photo of our son Rowan Hope with his prize catch of the day - the beefsteak mushroom!

He was so proud of himself and has spoken lots about it since!

It would be great if you could post us a copy of newsletter if his photo goes into it?

Many thanks,
Tracy

Consider it done.

Fistulina hepatica on Quercus sp. Rowan Hope

TAK

Melanophyllum haemospermum

This is a rather nice specimen photographed by Aubrey Colling and deservedly published here. The find was made on the Rievaulx Terrace foray on the 6th. October by Babs Walton and confirmed by Gordon Simpson.



Melanophyllum haemospermum
Redspored Dapperling

spores

6.5-7.5 x 3.5-4.0 microns

spore
print



detail of cap of 2nd specimen

Typhula erumpens

Gordon Simpson writes:

For several years I have spent up to four days with Colin and Beryl Stephenson at Scarborough in the main toadstool season from mid September to mid October. Brian Cockerill, who is now the mycology recorder for the Scarborough Field Club, joins us when possible. None have any transport so I take them to distant parts of their area. Most forays are in the Forestry Commission's North York Moors forests. On 19 Oct 2006 I was searching for fungi and I visited an avenue of Goat Willows planted on each side of a track in front of Sitka Spruce. On the dead, attached branches I spotted what resembled a *Typhula* species but Colin and I were not aware of any *Typhula* that grows on wood. A piece of a branch was sent to Kew Gardens and Dr Spooner sent a reply stating it was close to *Typhula erumpens*. It is the only British record for this fungus. See Colin's article for more information. Every year since the fungus was found a visit has been paid to the site. It has become apparent that long spells of wet weather are needed to keep the dead branches moist. In 2011, a dry season, we only found one specimen. On 25 Sep 2012, a very wet season, the fungus produced a large quantity of fruits some of which were on the fallen, dead branches too. A conservation prescription involving planting of many more cuttings has been sent to the Forestry Commission.



Brian Cockerill took the photograph above and he has given permission for the use of it in the NEFSG newsletter. His camera is a **Canon EOS 500D** and the photo was taken using a **Canon Compact-Macro lens EF 50mm 1:2.5**

Colin's article was published in Field Mycology Vol. 10 (3) July 2009 and Colin has given permission for you to put it in the newsletter.

The article follows in full.

TAK

THIRTY YEARS OF MYCOLOGY - a pictorial journey

Colin R. Stephenson*

In the early 1970's when I first became interested in fungi, there was only one readily available book on the subject, *Mushrooms and Toadstools* by Morten Lange and F Bayard Hora. I was soon seeking help from the late W. G. Bramley, who was the Yorkshire Recorder. He was a tall, thick-set, elderly person, who told me in a broad Yorkshire accent that he did not do "big stuff" (basidiomycotina) since he had lost his sense of smell. His advice was that I should write to the Head of Mycology at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for permission to send material for determination. This I did and permission was obtained. This article is based on the correspondence between myself and the late Dr Derek A. Reid and the present Head of Department Dr Brian M. Spooner and presents some of the more interesting species I have seen over the last thirty years.

Polyporus umbellatus (Fig.1)
This fungus was found before I had permission to send material to Kew, so a sample was taken to Mr Bramley who confirmed my determination. It was found in Raincliffe Woods in August 1975, a spectacular species growing from a black sclerotium

under an old beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica*). Although the site has been visited for the last 24 years it was not found again until August 1999 by my wife, Beryl. It was some way away from the original site (see FM 2(4):137 and 9(2):72). It is an early fruiting fungus, being found in July and August. The unusual shape of this species makes it unmistakable, with its umbrella-like caps formed at the ends of branches of a much branched stalk [see also FM 2(2):80 and 5(4):119 for more on this species - Ed.].

Guepinia helvelloides (Fig. 2)
My wife Beryl and I first found this delightful pink, floppy species by the side of a ride in Sneverdale, Dalby Forest, in October 1980. It was taken to Mr Bramley who gave his determination as *Tremiscus helvelloides*, now *G. helvelloides*. The following year a sample was collected from the same site and forwarded to Dr Reid at Kew. It was growing in small patches of old conifer chips close to larch (*Larix* sp.). In later years it was found at different sites in both Dalby and Wykeham forests, usually by the side of a ride where some forestry work had been done. [See FM 7(2):41-42; 8(2):38 and 9(1):28 for more on this species - Ed.].

Cortinarius rubellus (Fig. 3)
This *Cortinarius* was found in Raincliffe Woods in September 1982 and was sent to Dr Reid for determination as I had no textbooks on this family. In his reply he made the following comments: "It was first reported from Britain in 1976 by Peter Orton, who had found it in Somerset. I had found it in Surrey in 1980 and called it *Cortinarius orellanoides*. One odd thing about my specimen was the large number of two-spored basidia. It is extremely poisonous and very dangerous if eaten, as symptoms only appear after a long interval, about a fortnight". [See FM 4(3):75-76 for another photograph and discussion of this species - Ed.].

Stephanospora caroticolor (Fig. 4)
Found on 13 September 1983 in the bottom of Forge Valley, near the River Derwent. It is a rare hypogeous fungus which pushes itself just through the surface of the soil and, as the name suggests, it is a bright carrot colour. Material was sent to Dr Reid who commented that it was new to him and what a bright colour it was, he having only seen old dried herbarium material.

*address

Lycoperdon echinatum

(Fig. 5)

Although there was no mistaking this species, with its very long spines which cross at their tips, a sample was sent to Kew as it was thought to be rare in Yorkshire. As the name suggests, it is a very spiny, hedgehog-like puffball. I first found it growing in leaf litter under a high hawthorn hedge (*Crataegus monogyna*) by the roadside at Hackness Park in 1984. It was found at this site until the year 2000, when the hedge was removed. Head-high nettles (*Urtica dioica*) soon grew over the site and this has deterred me from searching since. The photo shows very young, very pale fruitbodies, when mature they are dark brown.

Jafneadelphus amethystinus

(Fig. 6)

This fungus was found by a friend, Nick Williams, on 7 September, 1986, whilst he was working as a warden in Forge Valley. He slipped on the steep side of the valley, fell and, most fortuitously, landed with his nose almost on this fungus. It was growing on bare soil under dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*).

Dr Spooner was sent a specimen and he replied that it was recognised by its beautiful colour and large, coarsely warted spores. He further noted that it was rare and he had never seen fresh material. The most recent British herbarium material of this species was dated 1919. There has been one collection since, by Alan Outen from Bedfordshire in 1990.

Postia balsamea

(Fig. 7)

This was found on a rotten hawthorn tree (*Crataegus monogyna*) in The Glen, Scarborough, in 1986. The Glen is a steep-sided valley planted with trees and shrubs and owned by Scarborough Corporation. A sample was sent to Dr Reid who stated that it was usually reported from conifer, but had been known from time to time on deciduous trees. It was seen on the same site from 1987 to 1992 when the tree was felled. It reappeared on the stump of the same tree in 1997 and 1998.

Chromocrea cupularis

(Fig. 8)

My attention was drawn to this fungus by Mr Steve Palmer, a Forest Ranger with the Forestry Commission, on 28 September 1992. It was found growing on a decorticated Scots Pine log (*Pinus sylvestris*) in Dalby Forest.

This followed the first British record of what is probably an imported species growing originally with non-native conifers. In my letter to Kew I stated it had 16 spores per ascus, a phenomenon I had not seen before. Dr Spooner said it could be recognised by the substrate and the 16 dark green spores in each ascus. He also noted that "it is evidently a rare species as there seem to be no recent collections".

The log on which this fungus was growing was marked and also noted on Forestry Commission maps but despite our efforts the log was removed, probably for firewood. It was only possible to observe this fungus for two years, 1992 and 1993. This species is now usually placed in *Hypocrea*. It

has a much commoner close relative on hardwood hosts:

H. aureoviridis.

Hydnотrya cubispora

(no photograph)

This was found in spruce needles (*Picea*) below Pexton Bank in Dalby Forest, on 8 November 1998. This species had not previously been recorded in England, only Scotland. In my letter to Dr Spooner I stated that the spores looked somewhat like fried eggs.

The outer surface of this hypogeous fungus was pale fawn and the interior was white. In his reply he stated that the very prominent, truncate ornament at the poles of the spores was characteristic of it [see FM 4(4):122, 2003 for photographs and discussion of this species, including its 'fried egg' spores - Ed.].

Camarops tubulina (Fig. 9)

On 28 July 2002 I collected this fungus which was growing on the trunk of a wind-blown Norway spruce (*Picea abies*).

In reply to my letter Dr Spooner said "It is the only species of this genus which occurs on conifer and is certainly rare in Britain". At Kew there are only collections from Wiltshire from 1979 and 1981. These were the first British records. It has since been found in the Hebrides. All British material so far is on *Abies* so my collection gave a range extension and a new host. The spores were dark brown and

Cont'd.



The fruitbodies were growing in single lines and also in groups along the branches. The largest was 11 mm tall by 1 mm wide, many were much smaller. It appeared to be a *Typhula* but I lacked literature on this genus so sent it to Kew. In his reply Dr Spooner said "It is an interesting one, which seems to agree with *Typhula erumpens* Corner.

There are few collections so named and it is not in the Checklist, but it is part of the *T. spathulata* group, Cont'd.

1 4

2 5 Positions of photographs on page 3

non-septate, but 2-guttulate, so sometimes showing a false septum.

Typhula cf. erumpens (Fig. 10)

On 19 October 2006 I was collecting in Givendale in Dalby Forest with a close friend, Gordon Simpson. He found this species growing on dead branches of goat willow (*Salix caprea*).

Fig. 1. *Polyporus umbellatus*

Fig. 2. *Guepinia helvelloides*

Fig. 3. *Cortinarius rubellus*

Fig. 4. *Stephanospora caroticolor*

Fig. 5. *Lycoperdon echinatum* (very young and pale Fruitbodies)

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once also referred to as *T. sclerotioides* but wrongly so. The detailed taxonomy of this group is still unclear and, hopefully, for the book on British Clavarioid fungi which is currently being prepared, we can sort it out a bit. Your specimen agrees quite well with *T. erumpens* typically on *Salix*, with amyloid spores, lack of clamps and flattened sclerotium under bark".



Figure 6



Figure 7

Fig. 6. *Jafneadelphus amethystinus*

Fig. 7. *Postia balsamea*

Fig. 8. *Chromocrea cupularis*

Fig. 9. *Camarops tubulina*

Fig. 10. *Typhula* cf. *Erumpens*



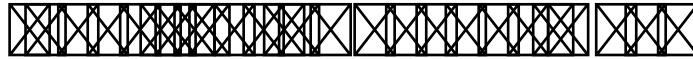
Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Members regularly require assistance in identifying species which they have come across on individual forays or just whilst walking the dog. Often, they are frustrated by the illustrations/pictures in their books being inconclusive. Whilst “keys” are generally more difficult to use they will bring results....with perseverance.

“Keys” give the user the option to back out of cul-de-sacs and force re-examination of the characters of the find. There are some very good “keys” on the internet but they tend to be for specific genera ; Russulas, Mycenas, Hygrocybes etc.

Often, the first hurdle is to be able to establish to what genus the find belongs. Experience is not instantly available but, with time and many forays; some genera do become familiar....though not always!

If you are really stuck with what seems to be an interesting find you can photograph the specimen in poses which show off the important details-gills, pores, spines , including attachment to the stem, stem and ring attachment, colour AND spore colour etc.-but just as importantly you must record the substrate and growth habit (single, clumped, clustered or tufted) and indicate the SIZE of the find. These details matter. Now you can send your photographs, with accompanying details to :

Dominique Colback-rad_colbeck@hotmail.com
Aubrey Colling-vg27hmbvt@btinternet.com
Tom Kirby-tectak@aol.com

Please note that your photographs, no matter how good they are, are by no means certain to produce a definitive result, but you may receive a pointer which will set you off in the right direction. Send your photographs with a size no greater than 500kB per picture.

If you cannot take clear digital photographs then you may need to send your specimen off for detailed scrutiny. This should be the last resort UNLESS you believe you have a rare species.

You may send your specimen to Tom Kirby, 4 Bishopton Crossings, Stillington, Stockton on Tees TS21 1NJ where it will be shuffled along a route to identification by more able mycologists.

Please pack your specimen in a wrap of waxed paper and place it in a rigid container with some light packing to prevent movement. Send the specimen by first class post to arrive before a weekend. All the details mentioned should be included.

The NEFSG may decide to send off particularly rare or puzzling specimens to the professional bodies (ABFG and/or BMS) for final analysis.

If you want to try “keys” you should be aware that the NEFSG has several available to members.

Blackening Russulas by Doug McCutcheon,

Earth Tongues by Irene Ridge

Keys to the British Genera of Agarics and Boleti by Archie McAdam

Keys to Clavarioid genera – Jens H. Petersen/ Borgsjö

Keys to Dark Spored Agarics

Keys to Waxcaps

Email tectak@aol.com for copies.

TAK

Just when you thought it was all over.....

We have to talk about Membership Fees of the NEFSG. Oh, we know it is tedious but it is really quite important.

The NEFSG has tried to operate in a way that minimises the amount of cash in the account by converting it into useful or pleasurable alternatives. We buy books on a regular basis, we have our own microscope available to any member who wishes to borrow it, we produce four colour Newsletters per annum, run a web-site to the benefit of all (<http://www.nefsg.co.uk>) and we are happy to invest loose change in the yearly jolly. You have to be there to benefit from this largesse and were it not for those of you who pay the Membership fee and don't turn up we probably couldn't afford the gesture!

Not being able to "afford" something is not really the right expression. We operate in a debt-free mode and so far have always had a small amount of equity spilling over from year to year; not much, but enough to justify the accounting methodology.

We will be in this fortunate position at the end of 2012...but we are running a tight ship. There are some "projects" which have been mooted in the last twelve months which may require some small monetary input from funds over and above normal maintenance costs and though we can endlessly discuss the merits (or otherwise) of these things it all must hinge on the views of the members. We now have Cath Gillie, Dom Colback and Val Standen honourably shanghaied on to the committee as Members' Representatives. Your views are important to us as the NEFSG is nothing without its the members.

Ah, but what are these projects lurking in the background? Well, the pole position is the hoped for reciprocal visit by our German colleagues who sent us Bernhard Otto and who gave a small group of us such a wonderful time in the forest of the Rhine Valley above Kirel some long, (too long) years ago. Cath has been working on the feasibility of such a plan. There may be some small costs incurred both prior to and during this occasion if we can bring it off.

Alan Simkins (Hon. Chairperson) has and is investigating an NEFSG associated Information Board to be located in an as yet undesignated location, giving information on Fungi in general and "locally common" expected finds....provided that the Ash Tree survives the next decade.

Whilst neither of these proposals will bankrupt the group it is worth pointing out that the Membership fee has been fixed for the last fifteen years and so there may well be a justified increase in subs from the end of this year. The Committee meeting will have decided on the level of subs by the time this Newsletter is published but all members will be notified in good time for renewal.

Renewal. From this year the payment of subs must be made by the end of January 2013. The membership fee can be paid by cheque, cash or direct electronic transfer directly into the NEFSG account. Current paid up members will receive the January 2013 Newsletter but if membership fees are not paid by January 31st. it will be assumed that you wish to leave us and so membership will be suspended and Newsletters will stop with no reminders being sent out. The group is by nature a friendly assembly of like-minded souls and it is neither dignified nor acceptable to harangue members into paying their subs on time.

Details of all matters relating to the payment of Membership Fees will be sent to all members by December 31st. 2012. Those members who receive their Newsletters by e-mail will be notified using that medium and others will receive details by post.

So.....another year over and here we are ready for 2013. As this is the last Newsletter of the year the Committee would like to wish you all you would wish yourselves within the limits of the Law, for the coming year.

.....it is now!