



North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter No 90 - Autumn 2018

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NEXT ISSUE: The deadline for articles for the Winter newsletter is 25th Feb 2019.
All contributions will be gratefully received!



Forthcoming Events

26 January 2019 Winter indoor meeting - Unusual Finds and Illustrations by Michael Jordan
Followed by Dried Fungus Quiz - Ron Patterson

23 February 2019 Annual General Meeting

Both of these meeting will start at 11am in the Visitor Centre, Rainton Meadows .



Membership Fees

Subs are due in January and are £8.00 single and £10 family membership. Please will you try to pay promptly. Payment can be made in cash or cheque made payable to North Eastern Fungus Study Group or by BACS transfer. For details contact Tom Kirby at tectak@aol.com.

Paxillus anomalous....

anomalous

[uh-nom-uh-luh s]

adjective

- 1) deviating from or inconsistent with the common order, form, or rule; irregular; abnormal: *Advanced forms of life may be anomalous in the universe.*
- 2) not fitting into a common or familiar type, classification, or pattern; unusual
- 3) incongruous or inconsistent.

OK, I admit it....I made the name up. There is a lot of it about these days....but that is not what this article is about. This is about forays past and records made and conclusions drawn and the Brown Roll Rim fungus. Now we all know what that is...don't we?

Well, in spite of many finds of this distinctive fungus, and in spite of half-hearted attempts by those who know better to sway amateur mycologists from their confident identification *in the field*, nonetheless, records indicate overwhelmingly that *Paxillus involutus* IS the binomial of choice for The Brown Roll Rim.

To make clear this assertion, you only need to check out the FRDBI where you will find 10,472 records for this ubiquitous fungus. CATE2 has 6,765 of the same species.

So that's that, then. If you find a fungus which is brown has an in-rolled "rim", strongly decurrent gills with a "characteristic" tendency to turn to slime when rubbed...then what you have is *Paxillus involutus*. Or not.

On a recent foray, we found *P.involutus*. We found it several times. It fitted the stereo-type and no one doubted the identification...except for one among us. There is always one...usually they have read an "article" somewhere pronouncing on the cavalier field identification of what, in fact, is a genus of some 30 plus species. OK...not all look anything like *P.involutus* but many do and we ARE in "the field" discussing the possibility of erroneous identity. I have to say that on this occasion the dissenter was a much respected mycologist and that was significant. I decided to follow up on the dichotomy. Fortune shone on me as I returned to my car that afternoon. I found a *Paxillus Sp.* which didn't look as stereotypical...er...as it should. I took it home.

Two days go by and I remember that in my study there is a specimen shedding spores for me. Out with the "books", slides prepared, let the microscopy begin. Oh, dear...this is not easy.

P.involutus Cap(50-)70-300mm; sp.deposit dark red brown. 8F7 and/or growing on rich soil with *Tilia*, *Carpinus* or *Populus*.

All seems fine but the spores seem a little deformed...could be drying out. The specimen was in grass on the edge of a cleared car-parking area...no *Tilia*, perhaps *Carpinus* but not close by...certainly no *Populus*....as for the rest, well, "Identification *By Likelihood*" is not unreasonable under these circumstance. Nonetheless, I mused on the possibility of error even using the IBL technique, so I decided to take a cursory glance at CATE2 and filter *P.involutus* to the NEFSG....my group.

I had no sooner got the page up when my email "dinged". On an unrelated matter my colleague slipped in a comment to the effect that ALL six of his Brown Roll Rim specimens were *Paxillus cuprinus*.

Paxillus cuprinus? *Paxillus cuprinus*? I had never heard of it...nor, it seems, has Species Fungorum, or Funga Nordica.. but there....right there...in the CATE2 database were TWENTY-THREE records...And what is more, there are 23 in the FRDBI, too...but not the same 23.Nearly, but not all.

So let's just get this in to perspective. There are 10,472 records of *P.involutus* in the FRBI...and 6,765 in CATE2.

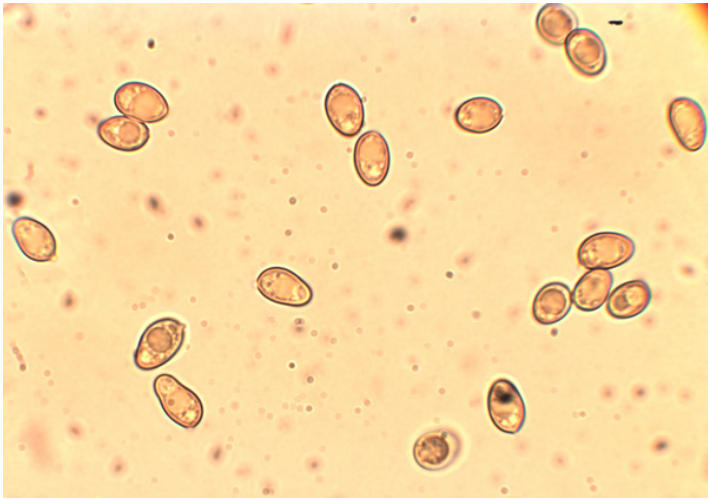
There are 23 records of *P.cuprinus* in both databases, the same prime number but NOT the same records. It should be noted, though, that of the 23 records of *P.cuprinus* in CATE2 only three are NOT from the North East of England and of the remaining 20, my mycological whistle-blower either found or identified them all...and I have no reason to doubt his judgement.

There must be an anomaly here as indeed, there MUST be many such anomalies in any database. Putting it politely, there may well be many hundreds of mis-identifications of *Paxillus involutus*...or only twenty-three...but in this case, I feel a certain sense of personal humiliation (only a little) because I must have made the error many hundreds of times over the last 50 years

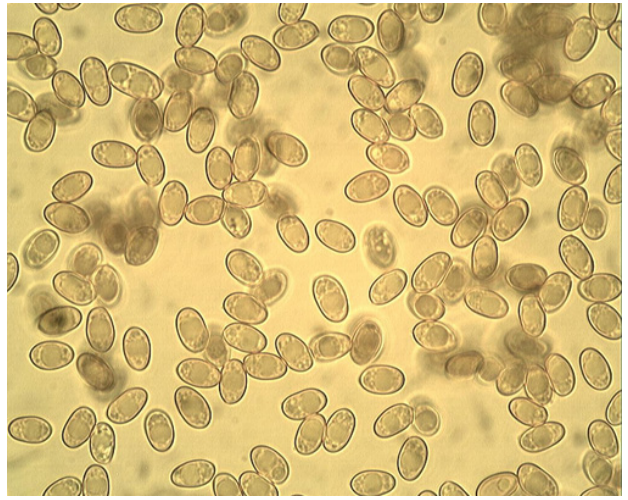
I wonder how long it will be before we see another new name popping up...

Paxillus anomalous.

Tom Kirby
(NEFSG)



Cuprinusspores



Involtusspores





Paxillus amoniavirescens photo: courtesy of M Floriani

Mal Greaves offers a salutary warning that a brief check is no longer enough for *Paxillus involutus*!

I live in an area of Yorkshire where species of *Paxillus* are quite a common find, and although I have known about *Paxillus amoniavirescens* for some time (so-called because of a green cap reaction with ammonia), and I actually found my first one back in 2007, I was interested when *Field Mycology* dropped through the letterbox. It included a fascinating and informative article by Geoffrey Kibby and Alick Henrici; it also provides a key for *Paxillus*, including the more generally accepted new species. Unfortunately this does mean that, in future, a cursory glance may no longer be sufficient to record *Paxillus involutus*.

24 *The Forayer*



The regular ovoid spores of *Paxillus involutus*

The 'pinched-in' spores characteristic of *Paxillus cuprinus*



Tip for beginners! Most 'seasoned' field mycologists will know this trick, but it is always a good demonstration for newcomers to the game that then tends to sink in to the memory banks. The gills of just about all *Paxillus* species have an unusual trait of slipping away from the top of the stalk, easily and cleanly, if you simply push them with your thumb nail.

Sobering fact. Some years ago a local restaurateur approached MJ at home in Somerset with a Fife's banana box that was fully loaded with *Paxillus involutus* fruitbodies. The point of this rendezvous, since said restaurateur was keen to get started on preparing the evening menu including so-said 'wild mushrooms', was that he wanted to be reassured that all the contents of the banana box were definitely Chanterelles (*Cantharellus cibarius*). By way of a postscript, the aforementioned restaurant is now boarded up and derelict. However, it is worth bearing in mind that, according to recent reports, a large number of restaurants in areas like the New Forest in Hampshire are now recruiting collectors, people who presumably have varying degrees of practical field knowledge about species, to meet the insatiable demand for wild mushrooms that are then incorporated according to 'whatever turns up' into the menus. Perhaps it is only a matter of time . . . !

26 *The Forayer*

We now actually have four species of *Paxillus*, which in casual appearance are very much like variations on a theme. One of the new species is *P. cuprinus*, given this name because of its often striking colour change, with age, from the normal pale olive, to red-brown or copper-brown. This colouration is more pronounced in dry weather. It has two other main identifying features. The first is that it favours more open areas than *P. involutus* so is unlikely to be found in the shady parts of a wood. The second difference lies in the shape of the spores which have a "pinched" apex in side view. Although this irregular shape of spore can occur in *P. involutus* it is of much rarer occurrence. Remembering this, I ventured

out onto a local heathland, and almost immediately came across a *Paxillus* that looked, at first glance like *P. involutus* at the edge of a small copse of half a dozen trees, a mixture of pine and birch.

I could see no significant difference in the colour of the fruitbody from that which I would expect for *P. involutus*, so the specimen was collected without any real hope of having encountered something new. It was not until examining the spores under the microscope, however, that I was confident I had found *P. cuprinus* because many, but not all spores, had the "pinched" apex.



The distinctive reddish-brown to coppery-brown colouration of the cap, gills and stipe of *Paxillus cuprinus* are the first macroscopic details that may alert you to the possibility that the species is not *P. involutus*. The latter possesses much more of a dull, cigar-brown colouration to the fruitbody.

Summer 2015 25



photo courtesy of Mykoweb.com

Paxillus involutus (above) is by far and away the commonest of our British species. The distinctively reddening *Paxillus rubicundulus* (below) is by comparison much less frequently encountered, occurring predominantly in association with Alder (*Alnus* spp.) but also recorded occasionally with *Salix* spp.



photo courtesy of asturnatura.com

Summer 2015 27

Sally Patterson sent the following videos:- Cntl Click to view.

Mushroom... The New Plastic? [news] - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRnJeNurdEY>

Eben Bayer: Are mushrooms the new plastic? - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmDENxTPn8Q>

How trees secretly talk to each other - BBC News

<https://youtu.be/yWOqeyPIVRo>

Mike Cruse sent the following videos: Cntl Click to view.

The fungal collection of the Jagiellonian University ...

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/272204750_The_fungal...

PDF | The paper presents a short history of the mycological collection of the Jagiellonian University Herbarium (**KRA**, Kraków, Poland). The Herbarium holds over ...

Videos of Mycorrhizal Fungi

bing.com/videos

[Mycorrhizal Fungi Animation](#)

Minutes of a committee meeting held at 11.00am at Danby, 17th November 2018

1 Present: Alan Simkins (chairman), Jo Scott, Tom Kirby, Mike Cruse, Val Standen (sec).

2 Apologies: John Robinson, Dominique Colback

3 Matters arising from minutes of May meeting: none. minutes accepted.

4 Winter indoor meeting Jan 2019: TK to ask Michael Jordan to give an illustrated talk e.g. interesting finds resulting from CATE2 work on January 26th - to be confirmed. Ron Pattinson to prepare quiz on dried fungi.

5 2019 foray programme - Brathay Hall have asked for weekend with German MAK to be changed to the following weekend (25-29th October). Brathay have offered use of a work room for £120 for the weekend if the change accepted (otherwise £240 per day). **AS** is to ask Cath Gillie to contact the German group to see if this change is possible for them. If so, **AS** to contact our members. When date fixed, **AS** to give cheque for 25% total cost - but individuals to pay own bills at end of weekend. If too many Germans withdraw, then keep to original date.

DRAFT

Sunday	April 28	Stocksfield	Mike Cruse
Saturday	May 11th	Hutton Rudby	Paul Forster
Saturday	July 13th	LUNCH at Cassop	Alan Simkins
Saturday	Aug 17 th	Rothbury	Sally Pattison
Sunday	September 1st	Aeryholme to Pinchinthorpe	Tom Kirby with Gt. Ayton WG
Sunday	September 8th	Ormsby Hall	Alan Simkins + Cleveland Nats.
Sunday	September 15th	Falloden nr. Seahouses	Mike Cruse
Saturday	September 21	Bedburn	Cath Gillie
Saturday	September 28th	Danby Park	Tom Kirby
Sunday	October 6th	Allensford	Alan Simkins
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>October 12th</i>	<i>Hadrians Wall</i>	<i>Alan Simkins - added post-meeting</i>
Sunday	October 13th	Ragpath	Val Standen + DWT

TBC October 18-22nd Brathay LAKE DISTRICT WEEKEND

TBC October 26th Ebchester Mike Cruse

Saturday November 2nd Hesleyside nr Bellingham Mike Cruse

Saturday November 9th Howardian Hills Rhona Sutherland

*TBC by MC November 16/17th Holy Island/Berwick Dunes Sheila Lillie

+ Possibility of foray to Hadrians Wall - Alan Simkins. * dates needed in time for AGM.

6 Lake District Weekend: TK reported that £1200 could be available to subsidise hospitality for the German visit. Rhona Sutherland has offered to research possibility of visit to Armit museum or Hill Top and it was agreed that if possible, committee members should recce. other possibilities before the summer. A meal at Zeffirelli restaurant and other evening meals were discussed with NEFSG funding for one of these. When dates finalised **AS** to draw up a draft programme for the weekend. MC to ask Sheila Lillie if any members of the Border group would like to participate.

7 Finance and membership: TK reported that 54 people were members and that after receiving the subs for 2019, the account would hold £1200. TK to circulate list of paid up members including address and phone numbers to committee members. Membership subs to be kept same.

8 Newsletter: Jo to include a reminder to members that subs are due at the end of January - pay by cheque, BACS or cash. £8.00 individual, £10 family. Include link to website. **JS** to consult John Robinson about a process which allows members to upload photos to the website. Michael Jordan is willing to allow articles written by our members published in the Forayer to be used in the newsletter if permission given by the author - **AS** to advise which are suitable.

NEFSG Library- TK to complete compilation of books donated by Alan Bunn. It was agreed that the committee would then consider if any are surplus and could be sold. **AS** felt we should at least retain Funga Nordica and Dorothy Wolfe books.

9 HLF bid by DWT: It is hoped that a project to publicise the importance of fungi might be included in the HLF bid made by Durham Wildlife Trust. The overall project is for the Durham coast. **AS** and **VS** to arrange meeting with Jim Cokill to discuss possibility of funding for e.g. interpretation board, a programme of guided walks, a touring exhibition etc.

10 CATE2: Working well. MC has offered to help foray leaders with the process.

11 AGM 2019: Scheduled for February 23rd at Rainton Meadows. Possibility of projecting a crossword onto a screen to be explored by TK.

12 AOB: After discussion it was agreed *we may need to re-visit the constitution at the next AGM* to consider how to engage more effectively with other organisations such as the Wildlife Trusts.

DONM - May 25th at Durham.

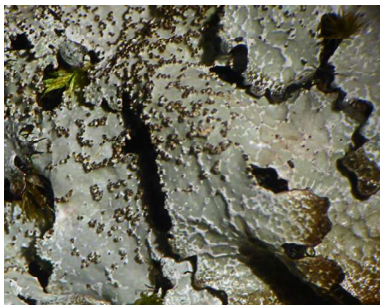
Lichen Lookout

Two common lichens found on trees, wood and rocks You may need a hand lens to see the small details.



Parmelia sulcata

A foliose lichen. Thallus grey or greenish grey with distinctive white lines and dots on the lobes (pseudocyphellae) which, in *P. sulcata*, develop soralia. The underside is dark brown- black with rhizines.*



Parmelia saxatilis

A foliose lichen with a grey lobed thallus. As with *P. sulcata* above the thallus bears pseudocyphellae but develops isidia instead of soralia. The thallus center can become covered with isidia and looks very dark. The underside is dark brown-black with rhizines.*

*Rhizines – fungal hyphae that form outgrowths to anchor the lichen to its substrate.