



North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter No 108 - Spring 2023

Index

Forthcoming Events	Page 1
Rhododendron Bud Blast - Lydia Koelmans	Page 3
To infinity and Beyond - Mike Cruse	Page 4
Claussenomyces atrovirens - Doug McCutcheon	Page 4
Some micros from Slit Wood - Jill Cunningham	Page 6
Lichen Lookout - Jo Scott	Page 8

NEXT ISSUE: The deadline for articles for the Summer newsletter is 26th August 2023
All contributions will be gratefully received!



Forthcoming Events - Meet at 10:30am for an 11am start unless otherwise stated

Sun May 21st Mike Cruse Chopwell Wood, Rowlands Gill

Mixed woodland , a popular foray site in the past . We may explore the less frequented parts .

Signposted A694 Consett from the A1 , at Rowlands Gill take the B6315 up to Hookergate near High Spen (Brown tourist signs for the Wood) . Meet at the main large car park ½ mile from the entrance. If parking under the pylons , (optional) , you may experience a tingling sensation when touching your car !

Grid Ref:- NZ 137 584 post code :- NE39 2AG

mikecruse@live.com [tel:- 01661823229](tel:01661823229) mob:- 07748276183 (on the day only)



Sat July 1st NEFSG Lunch The Green Tree, Tudhoe Village

Sun Aug 13th Lydia Koelmans - Swarland , 5m S of Alnwick

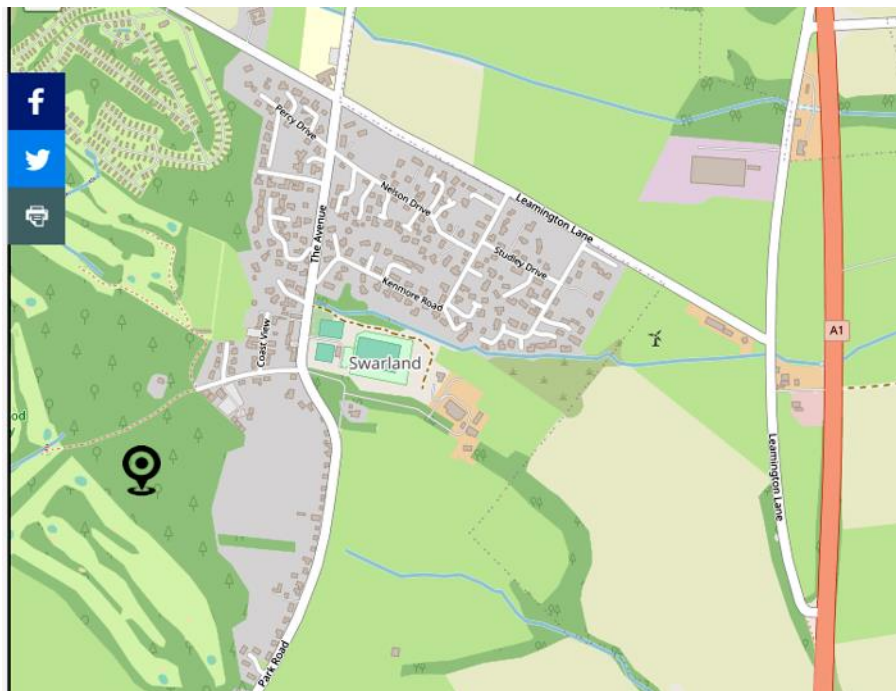
Interesting mixed woodland , beech woodland etc.

Take the Swarland exit off the A1 , proceed down The Avenue passing the Village Square , take a right turn and park at the Village Hall on Coast View .

Grid ref :- NU 162 033 ; Postcode :- NE65 9TG

lydia.koelmans@blueyonder.co.uk

tel:- 07759781721

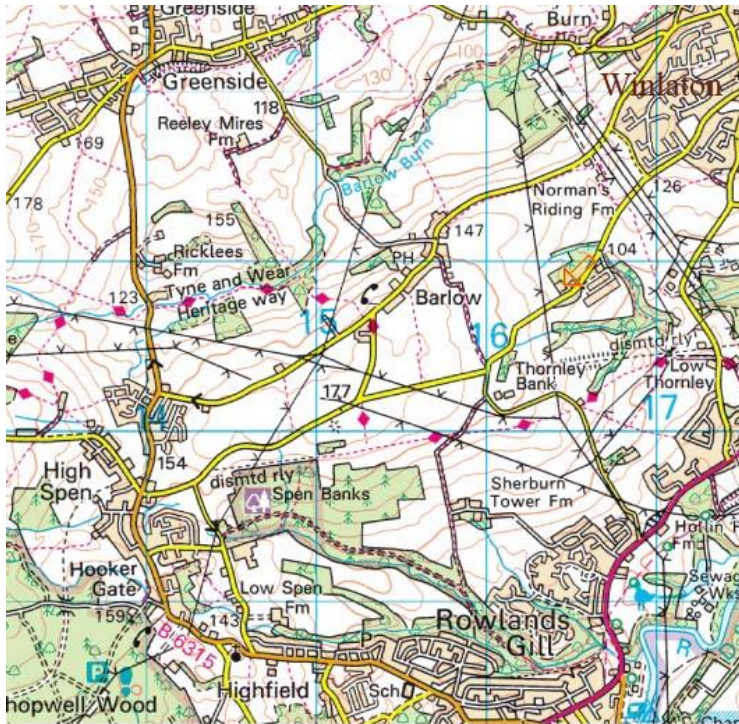


Sat 19th Aug - Normans Riding Wood Garesfield Lane Winlaton NE21 6LA - Doug McCutcheon

NZ 164608 area. About 11 acres. Meet at 10-30 am for a 10-45 am start.

Predominantly mixed aged deciduous woodland with a few conifers and plenty of conifer stumps and branches from felling in 2010/11. Depending on the previous weather there could be a few moist areas so stout footwear is advisable. I have accumulated a huge list of fungi and lichens over the last 20 years or so and the fungi have all been recorded on Cate2 so this year for a change I intend to record them for the BMS if someone will instruct me as to how I go about that. The plan is to foray until 1-00 pm then have refreshments which will be provided then lay out our specimens and hopefully ID them or as many as possible. Please use the map reference as the post code is unreliable in sat navs. **Please let me know by the 16th if you plan to attend.**

Landline 01914148050 or email doug.mcc@hotmail.co.uk



Sat 2nd Sept Mike Cruse - Stobswood, 5m NE of Morpeth



Rhododendron Bud Blast

Rhododendron Bud Blast, *Seifertia azaleae*, can most easily be spotted in the Spring. This tiny pinhead fungus, which makes affected Rhododendron flower buds look a bit like a pincushion, is thought to be spread by the Rhododendron Leafhopper, as well as rain and wind.



Lydia Koelmans

To infinity and beyond

Future Space Travel Might Require Mushrooms

[https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/space ...](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/space...)

Fungal Biotechnology in Space: Why and How? - ResearchGate

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338466297_Fungal...

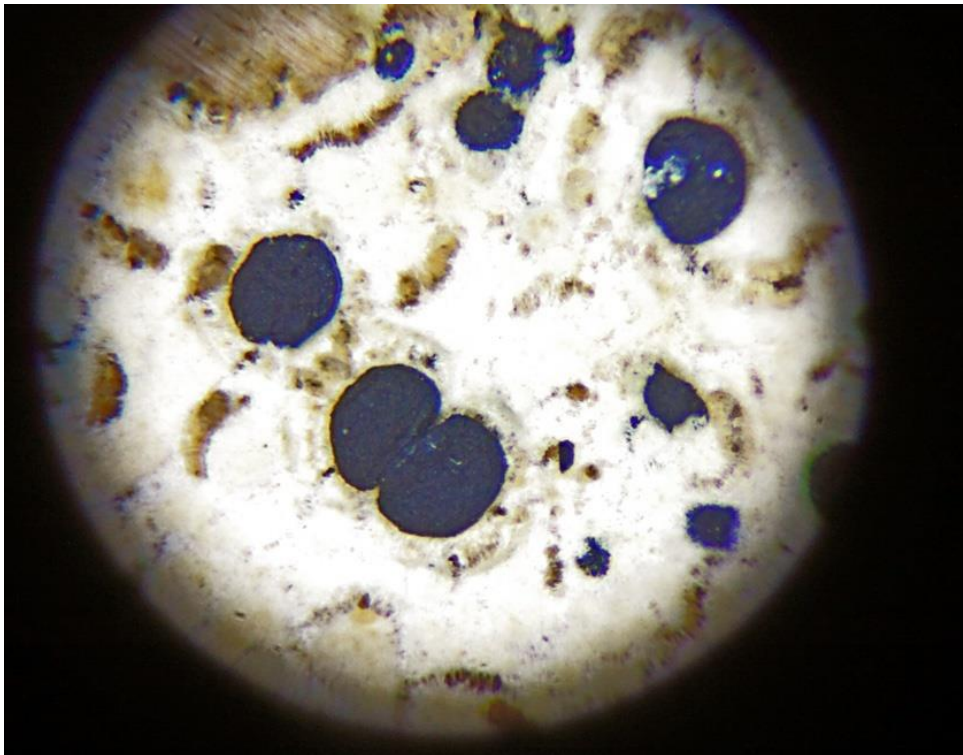
NASA Funds Research on using Fungi to Make Soil for ...

<https://parabolicarc.com/2021/03/04/nasa-funds-r...>

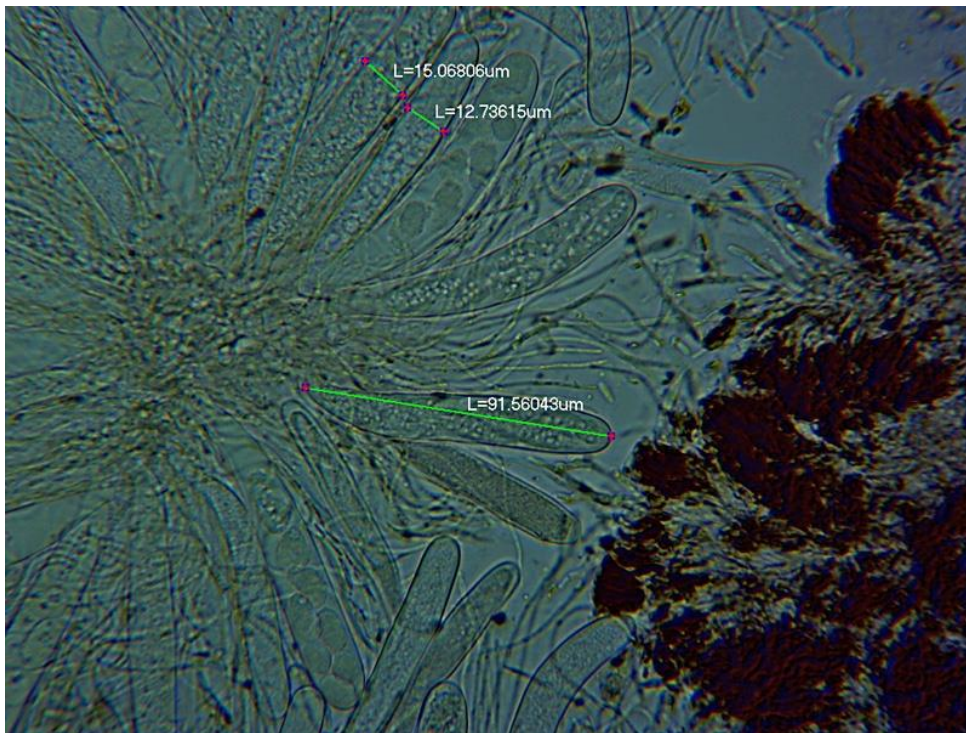
Mike Cruse

Claussenomyces atrovirens

Claussenomyces atrovirens is a bit of a nightmare for the microscopist owing to the unusual habit of its spores originating as around 7 septate spores which then soon fragment into granular like secondary spores which then coalesce into 8 clumps thereby giving 3 different states of asci. Ref. FOTE page 1449.



Fruiting bodies which can be upto 1.5 mm and grow on rotting wood or as in the above picture on the corticioid Hyphodontia alutaria on decaying fallen spruce.



Asci with differing contents. From Jo's Slitt Wood foray on unbarked trunk of fallen Elm.

Doug McCutcheon

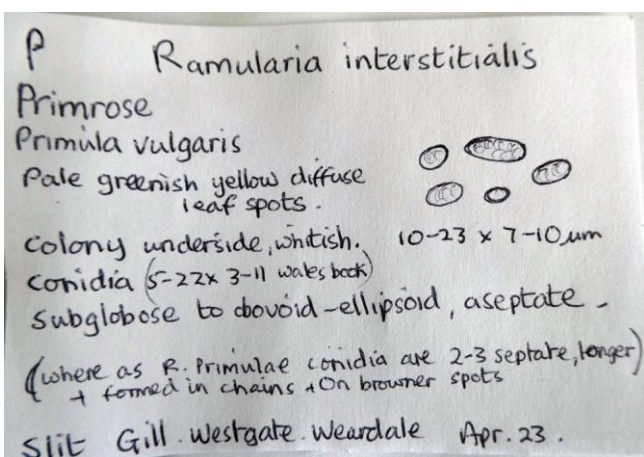
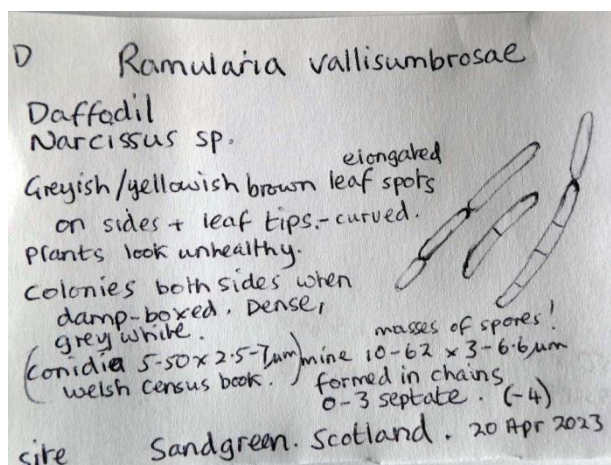
Some micros from Slitt Wood

As usual on the walk I recorded any micros and fungal galls that I passed - the ones that I knew, and as usual on the way back I bagged up any leaves with spots - well you never know! Often nothing can be seen on over-wintered basal browning fern leaves lying against damp ground, but after damp-boxing minute white 'dots' become apparent and the extrusions of the *Milesina* rust can be seen with a strong hand lens. A quick look at the spores under the microscope and knowledge of the host gives the ID- this time it was on Common Polypody, *polypodium vulgare*, so the ID is *Milesina polypodii*, (the new name for *m. dieteliana*). Microscopy is always needed as there are occasionally white colonies of *ramularia* that appear and sometimes both together.

Another 'leaf spot surprise' from the Slitt Wood damp box was *ramularia interstitialis* on a pale blotch on an older Primrose leaf. This species is as common as *r. primulae* but as it is not described in Ellis it is less frequently recorded. (*R. primulae* generally is on darker spots with conidia more parallel-sided, 2-3 septate and formed in chains.)

And from SW Scotland -

Patches of ailing Daffodils - no flowers, yellowing leaves with greyish/yellow-brown areas/tips, becoming necrotic. I was expecting *botryotinia narcissicola*, (a similar leaf tip rot to that on Ramsons - rife now), but the conidia were clearly *ramularia* so another new find for me - *r. vallisumbrosae*, likely to be widespread but under-recorded.

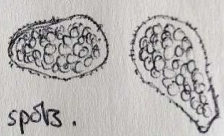


P. milesina (dieteliana) 1855A
 = *m. polypodii*
 Polypody
 Polypodium vulgare

colonies on overwintered
 fronds, on greenish brown spots.

spores hyaline, echinulate
 (24-48 x 16-26 μ m)
 Ellis + Ellis
 on underside of frond spots.

mine =
 (33-39-53 x 23-26 (29)
 μ m




Jill cunningham

Lichen Lookout

Lichens spotted on recent visit to Slit Wood, Westgate, Weardale.



Pertusaria leioplaca

Thallus grey or green especially when wet. Smooth and thin. Apothecia look like bubbles. On smooth barked trees



Ramalina fraxinea

Thallus grey/green. Long, wide, flattened, and wrinkled lobes can reach up to 10cm in length. Apothecia develop on the margins of the lobes.

Found on tree bark.



Usnea subfloridana

Very fine tufted thallus which is dark at the base with some transverse cracking

Rounded soralia can be present at the edges of the branches.

Tree trunks and branches.