North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter No 116 Spring 2025

Index

NEXT ISSUE: The deadline for articles for the Summer newsletter is 24th August 2025
All contributions will be gratefully received!

Forthcoming Events

NEFSG FORAY PROGRAMME 2025

All events meet at **10:30am for an 11.00am** start unless otherwise stated.

Sat Jul 19th Summer Social in a Village Hall, bring your own food, fun events, displays and a foray, tba
Sat Aug 30th Beginner's Foray, Chopwell Woods - Mike Cruse
Sat Sep 6th Black Plantation nr Lanchester - Lesley Hodgson

Saturday August 30th Beginner's Foray , Chopwell Wood, Rowlands Gill

Mixed woodland , a very popular foray site in the past with lots of interesting fungi . Get help to ID fungi from a number of friendly experts on hand .

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
what3words :- music.layers.feasting
Contact :- mikecruse@live.com mob:- 07748276183


Coalburn Plantation
Martin's Wood
Pawston Birks
Pawston Road
Ashtree Lane
Bankhead Cottages
Lillycrook Hill
Clayton Plantation
Terrace Road
High Spen
Miller's Wood
Spen Banks
Hooker Gate
Betty Plantation
Lockhaugh Farm
Hollinhill Lane
Campions
Highfield
Barkwood Road
NZ 137 584
Rowlands Gill
Chapel House
Whinfield Way
River Derwent
Chopwell Wood House
Victoria Garesfield
Low Friarside Farm
Lintzford Wood
Jockside Wood
West Wood

Get Ready for a Summer Social BBQ & Fungi Fun Day!

Dear NEFSG member, family & friends,

Join us on Saturday, 19th July from 11-4 at THE SNODS Community Hall in Snods Edge, Shotley Bridge, DH8 9TJ for a day packed with fun and Fungi.

We will start the day with a warm welcome from me, Cath Gillie, followed by a diverse program of optional talks, games, and activities. Whether you're a seasoned forayer or new to the group, it's the perfect chance to meet everyone and discover what we're all about.

Explore fascinating displays including fungi dyeing, earthstars, fungi stamps, fungi greeting cards, photographs, ceramics, music and a book sale. Plus, watch artist Andrew Thurm live-painting fungi and get tips for budding artists!

A delicious BBQ Lunch will be available for a small charge, with tea, coffee, and soft drinks freely available.

There will also be a short Foray in the woods and churchyard next to the Hall

Please -bring along a cake to share and, if you fancy something stronger, feel free to bring a bottle of wine, beer, etc.

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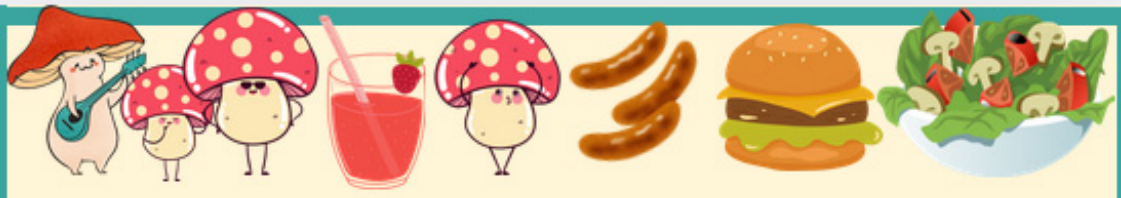
Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to have fun, learn, and connect with fellow fungi enthusiasts. We can't wait to see you there!

Best wishes,

Catherine Gillie

Chairperson

07835 658562
Cat.gillie@btinternet.com



SUMMER SOCIAL BBQ & FUNGI FUN DAY 2025

Everyone welcome

Saturday 19th July - 11am-4pm

- Fungi dyeing
- Mushroom art & how to do it
- Mycorrhizal fungi talk
- Earthstar talk & display
- Fungi stamps
- Fungi greetings cards
- Photographs by David Smith
- Ceramics
- Fungi music
- Book sale
- Foray/idle wander
- BBQ & refreshments

We would love it if you could please bring along a cake to share and if you fancy some alcohol please feel free to bring a bottle!

Well-behaved dogs welcome.

THE SNODS Community Hall, Snods Edge, Shotley Bridge, Consett, Co. Durham. DH8 9TJ
What3words: evening.months.decimal

Fungus Snippets
Number 2

I qualified as a forestry supervisor in 1957 and I was offered a job in NE England. Many lads did not ask to be posted to NE England in case they were offered a job at Kielder where public transport was unreliable. I reported to the head forester of Pickering Forest but the day after he was moving to take charge of Wykeham Forest and nursery. The replacement head forester was T N Terry (Note the initials). His move was delayed because his deaf father who farmed at Bakethin, now under Kielder Water, had been killed by the last train using the Newcastle to Scotland line. Eventually TNT, who was single, and his mother arrived at Raper's Farm SE823935, the HQ for Pickering Forest. TNT had served in the army during World War 2 in Iceland and he was good at delegating. A letter was received from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust asking if they could visit the forest sometime in summer as the trust had never arranged meetings in the valley from Pickering north to the sand quarries at SE833883. TNT asked me to arrange the meeting. At the meeting a man named Willis Bramley met me. He retired from farming at Fairburn Ings and settled in Whitfield Avenue, Pickering the street next to where I lived. Fairburn Ings farm subsided due to coal mining underneath. It is now a nature reserve lake owned by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Willis had a car and he visited me at Pickering Forest several times and he introduced me to Mycology. I did not start filling in recording sheets until about 1990so fungi found on his visited were not recoded. Willis found a pale brown cup fungus on disturbed soil churned up by a grader making an earth track from Stape village SE796925 to Raper's Farm hill top. This fungus was new to Yorkshire. On a visit to woods at SE808934 I asked Willis to describe how to identify Plums and Custard. The notes are in one of my diaries.

The next snippet will inform you about a fungus I found new to the world. I bet it will surprise you.

Gordon Simpson

Pholiota squarrosa – Paul Forster

NORTH EAST FUNGUS STUDY GROUP

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

THERE ARE 2 ENTRY CATEGORIES:
FILE SIZE MAX 2MB FOR SHARING

- A macro photograph of a fungus
- A photograph of microscopic features

NEFSG members can enter two photographs in total.

Photographs must be taken this year (2025).

All entries must be placed before 31.12.25.

Entries will be judged blind and the judge's decision is final.

You do not need to know the ID of your fungus to enter.

Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place & winners will be announced at the March 2026 AGM.
Photos of slime moulds are accepted.
Judge: Paul Forster

PLEASE SEND ALL ENTRIES TO:

cat.gillie@btinternet.com

FREE ENTRY
THIS COMPETITION IS OPEN TO NEFSG MEMBERS ONLY

NB By entering you agree that your image can be used & shared by the NEFSG

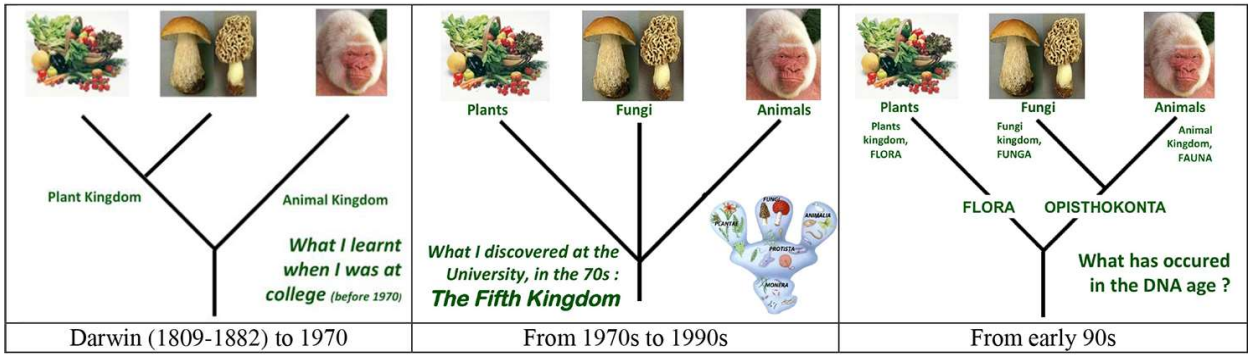
State of the Words of Fungi

Raymond Archambault, curator, Fongarium du Cercle des Mycologues de Montréal, Biodiversity Center, University of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Introduction

The classification of fungi has undergone long and gradual change since Darwin. From 1990s onward, considerable changes occurred. Because of the advances in DNA analysis, fungi have been re-examined and repositioned in the tree of life based on empirical research evidence (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Three major kingdoms in the tree of life (Simplified version)



Darwin (1809-1882) to 1970	From 1970s to 1990s	From early 90s

Note: Figures 1 illustrates the progress in understanding of the relationships between the three major kingdoms of multicellular eukaryotes. Before1970, fungi were considered to be a part of the plant kingdom because of their similarities to plants such as immobility, rigid cell wall and spores reproduction mode despite Fungi have no chlorophyll, stems, roots, leaves or vessel. The states of fungi were increasingly questioned from 1970 as research evidence emerged and the notion of the fifth kingdom spread[1]. Since the early 1990s, the development of DNA sequencing methods has enabled research to confirm that fungi are not plants but closely related to animals[2].

One of the consequences of these changes has impacts on the vocabulary of mycology in the last thirty years. For example, in the classification of fungi many taxa have changed their names that puzzle many mycologists for two reasons. Firstly, the definition of certain terms have been used for a long time and deeply rooted in mycology. Secondly, some of these terms become obsolete but others have to be clarified while new terms have to be used to replace some others. Thus, though these changes are valued for their scientific clarification of fungi, making changes can be an upheaval or a disruption for some mycologists.

The goals of this paper are to clarify important changes, what have been done and what need to be done in the process of repositioning the Kingdom of Fungi to its current state. A conclusion is drawn for a call for leadership in mycology to advocate mycology as an evidence-based empirical study of fungi and promote the compliance with new rules and standards for naming fungi.

Taxonomy and Terminology

Terms and related definitions exist to describe specific aspects of fungi but they often are changed or to be adjusted over the time of development as new scientific discoveries emerge. Though names of some taxa have been used for centuries, they are to be replaced to comply with writing rule of the new hierarchical rank and commonly accepted standard for consistency with the support of research evidence. Name replacements are valued for applying scientific description of fungi in correspondence to accountability and accuracy. For example, basidiomycetes and

[1] Whittaker, Robert H (1969). "New concepts of kingdoms or organisms. Science, 163: 150-194

[2] Baldauf SL et al (1993). Animals and fungi are each other's closest relatives: Congruent evidence from multiple proteins. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 90(24):11558-62.

ascomycetes have been replaced by Basidiomycota and Ascomycota. The suffixe -mycetes refers to a rank of classes as a rule but those two groups belong to the higher rank of phyllum, their suffix is changed to -mycota. In this way, confusion is limited, especially, for students and nonspecialists[3].

Some names of taxa that are more than 100 years old have lost their meaning in the phyllogenetic classification because of their polyphyletic nature (i.e., members of the group located on different branches in evolution). Note that these taxa names that have become obsolete often retain a descriptive value of morphological groups. It is the case of gasteromycetes, which means these mushrooms producing their spores until maturity inside a closed sporophore. The term retains a practical utility for a morphological group of mushrooms, that is, those species that are grouped solely based on their macroscopic resemblance without evolutionary consideration.

Other terms relating to the biological nature and ways of living of the fungi have been adjusted. For example, saprotroph[4] is fungi that feed on or get nourishment from decaying organic matter. It replaces saprophyt, which refers to plant. Similarly, for specifying the reproductive structure of fungi, sporophore replaces carpophore and sporocarp. For another example, in Basidiomycota and Ascomycota, basidioma and ascoma are increasingly used to replace basidiocarp and ascocarp. The reason is that the prefix and suffix of carpo- and -carp signify a fruit that is the reproductive organ proper to flowering plants and have nothing to do with fungi.

Apart from taxonomy, the use of two relatively new terms has remarkably made theirs ways into mycology in recent years, particularly in French. These terms are "*fonge*" and "*fongarium*"; they are funga and fungarium in English. Funga denotes the kingdom of Fungi (also known as Mycota). Similarly, flora is for plants and fauna is for animals. Nevertheless, continental divide occurs in its acceptance. The use of *fonge* has widely spread in Europe and in Québec for almost a decade and so as the term funga, particularly in publications such as the internationally renowned mycological book series *Funga Nordica*. In contrast, funga is rarely used in English speaking North America. Funga has not been included in the 10th edition of Dictionary of the Fungi (2008)[4] but, probably, it will be in the upcoming edition owing to its frequent use in Europe.

With regard to the use of the term of "fungarium", its acceptance is fairly recent globally. A few years ago, mycological research collections were still referred to as the "fungal herbarium or mycological herbarium". The current increase of the use of "Fungarium" indicates that it is gaining recognitions it deserves both in Europe and in North America to specify it as an organization for fungi collections preserved in a dehydrated state or other states for study and research purposes. Kew Gardens (the Royal Botanic Gardens) is one of the first internationally renowned institutions to adopt fungarium for its impressive Fungi collection. In Canada, the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto and the Fungarium of Cercle des mycologues de Montréal were the first institutions to adopt the term of fungarium respectively. Following these examples, some amateur mycologists create their fungarium for their collection of dried mushrooms but do not use the obsoleted "herbarium of mushrooms". It implies that despite resistance fungarium is, gradually, getting independence from herbarium to be a unique entity of its own.

Mycology is an evidence-based science. Its advancement depends on the implementation of new knowledge deriving from current research evidence. Consequently, changes and adjustments (e.g., to be independent from plant and the use of new taxa and terminology) are not avoidable. The purpose is *not* to discredit any historic foundation established but aims to progress from this foundation paved for further development.

Nevertheless, changes are challenged by either negligence of current rules and standardization or ignorance of recent empirical scientific evidence of mycology. The use of obsolete concepts and terms to describe the fungal kingdom and mycology still persists among some professional mycologists, researchers or mycology teachers. This persistence may create confusion, misconception and biases or partiality in the study and the education of fungi.

Misconception of Fungi and Mycology

Fungi are not plants! This statement is no longer disputed in science. To identify and describe new species of plant or fungi, there is a set of rules and recommandations dictating by a code of nomenclature. In 2011 at the Melbourne International Botanical Congress, the name of the code was changed from International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN) to International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants (ICN). To limit confusion, "botanical" was removed from the code to acknowledge that fungi and algae are not plants.

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[3] Hibbett D et al (2007). A higher-level phylogenetic classification of the Fungi. Mycological research. 111: 509-547.

[4] Kirk PM et al (2008). Ainsworth & Bisby's Dictionary of the Fungi, Tenth ed. CABI Publishing, Wallingford.

When certain scientific popularization insistently uses outdated or obsolete mycological terminology because of its popularity and a history of using it in a community, this type of scientific popularization propagates errors and misconception of fungi. For example the term of "mycoflora" involves two organisms in its formation, i.e., "fungi plants". Fungi are not plants and plants are not fungi, joining two together to form a term to describe fungi indicates a rejection to scientific evidence that confirms fungi are not plants but close relative of animals. The persistence of using this term is an example to show either negligence or ignorance explained in previous section.

The negative impacts of perpetuating use of erroneous terminology in mycology on fungi research as well as teaching and learning of fungi are observed. The phylogenetic classification of the kingdom of Fungi was proposed in 2007. This classification has been accepted universally in mycology since then. One of the goals aims at eliminating inconsistencies that creates confusion, especially for students and nonspecialists[1]. The implementation of this in fungal terminology can resolve issue stated.

Why is it useful to Amateur Mycologists to apply exact mycological terminology?

In the field of macroscopic fungi (macrofungi), it is well known that amateur mycologists have expertise surpasses scientific (or professional) mycologists at the level of macrofungi recognition across a large diversity of species. Despite the lack of thorough knowledge in biology, the field experience of these "macromycologists" empowers them to be experts in a restricted area of mycology of their choice or interest; in the eyes of the general public they are perceived as experts in mycology. They play a vital role in popular education in their community. Thus, their ability to use updated mycological terminology fosters the transmission of accurate information of mycology to the general public.

Besides, owing to public recognition of their expertize in macrofungi, especially, in arena of edibility of wild mushrooms, amateur macromycologists have often been consulted by hospitals to determine the causes of fungal intoxication. Their ability to use accurate mycological terms facilitates communication of medical assistance.

In addition to these important roles, macromycologists are frequently requested by ecologists and professional mycologists to provide detailed characteristics of macrofungi inventories. Mycoblitz becomes popular in ecological study due to the importance of knowing the macrofunga[5] in a territory. The participation of “amateur” macromycologists provides a most useful contribution. For example, a professional mycologist (a researcher) at University of Toronto, who publishes frequently in fungi phylogenetic, has informed the author that he was invited to participate a mycoblitz. He felt very uncomfortable because he could not identify the majority of the mushrooms in the field or on the exhibit tables in comparison to many amateur mycologists.

During the interaction between professional and amateur mycologists, they exchange scientific knowledge and learn from one another. When obsolete or inaccurate information is conveyed, confusion or mistake learning occurs, and mycologists may pass on this mistaken information during formal and public education or medical consultation. Its negative impacts can hinder advancement of knowledge and practice in mycology and in their community at large. The implication is that the use of precise and accurate terms to describe fungi among amateurs and professional mycologists is essential.

Mycology at university teaching

Universities are mega educational institutes that are slow in changes. Their current biological sciences curriculum for the first degree programme has not matched with current states of science discovery of mycology. Some universities do not offer mycology courses in their biological sciences while some other universities still considered mycology to be a sub-unit of botany. It is not a surprise that mycology and fungi have still taught under botany in undergraduate programmes. On one hand, fungi are only examined within a general botanical or plant diversity course, where they often represent less than 10% of the content. This poses reluctance in teaching fungi among university professors; related topics have been touched in whatever seems appropriate to them in botany. On other hand, students may finish their first degree in biology with superficial knowledge of fungi and without understanding the importance of the interactions of fungi with the rest of biological diversity. It implies that this university education does not educate students to be future mycologists or citizens who understand fungi and their roles in our nature and environment, and that changing the system requires funding and curriculum reform.

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[5] Funga design the Fungi on a territory, without regard they are macroscopic or microscopic. By extension, macrofunga is apply specificaly for the macrofungi on a territory. (The author)

Conclusion

The standardisation of classification proposed in 2007 was accepted and applied. It has big impacts on the advancement of phylogenetic classification of Fungi, as well as on knowledge exchange and communication between mycologists of all levels including professionals, amateurs, and students. It promotes the increase of accuracy but limits confusion. Thus, leaders in mycology may consider advocating this standardization for the mycological terminology. Speaking the same language is important for the clarification of conceptions of mycology and of term definitions in the enhancement fungi knowledge and mycology education.

In terms of education, fungi should be taught and learned in a programme dedicated to mycology in biological sciences. Fungi are composed of many diversified organisms of extremely varied characteristics and ways of living in biodiversity. Nature and attributes of Fungi are very different from prokaryotes, plants and animals. Thus, Fungi are unique entities that deserve to be studied as a major in biological sciences at university.

Currently, mycology is not offered as a major in biological sciences. When students complete the first degree at their university, some of them can say that they are plant biologists, animal biologists, ecologists or microbiologists (bacteriologists). A question arises: *Are some of them qualified to be fungal biologists (mycologists)?* When the answer is no, it indicates that the next generation may not be able or interested in carrying the torch. This leads to a call for leaders in mycology and our effort to resolve this issue in collaboration.

The advancement of fungi and mycology knowledge depend on leadership and mycological organizations that devote to advocate research on nature of Fungi and significance of mycological sciences as one of the five major kingdom of life. Among things to be done, its primary step is the compliance with new rules and standards for naming fungi, so that, the same fungi vocabulary can be used in knowledge exchange for effective mutual understanding among mycologists and educational practitioners. This leads to another call for strong leadership to implement standardization in the mycological terminology.

My First Residential Fungus Event

Lydia Koelmans

September 7th to 14th 2024 I went on a week's foraying in the scenic Highlands of Scotland, where about 20 eager beginners, enthusiasts and experts from various Scottish fungus groups came together to find and record fungi. I only knew two people there, but I very quickly got to know everyone else and the group gelled really well.

My destination was a lovely spot on the west coast of the peaceful Morvern Peninsula, to the south of Ardnamurchan and overlooking Mull. Ardtornish House, a Victorian highland country estate, afforded us very grand accommodation furnished with mahogany antiques and a huge microscopy room that was lit by chandeliers – the repurposed ballroom. We had massive cast iron baths, and our enormous bedrooms had chamber pots in them!

You could foray, socialise, do microscopy, or do your own thing – in whatever proportion you wanted. The group split to foray at different sites on most days. On our return to base, finds were set out on a table and labelled, so that everyone could see what had been found, and specimens could be taken to be studied. Seated every evening around a great dining table, we ate the most delicious meals kindly prepared by volunteer cooks from within our ranks. On one occasion, the meal included a dish of Hedgehogs, Chanterelles and Ceps.

Our recorder, Dick Peebles, was a man on a mission to record fungi throughout Scotland, hectad by hectad, focussing on under-recorded areas. Possessing an astonishing ability to recognise and identify almost everything that we bombarded him with, he also inspired, entertained, and organised us. Each fungus found was dictated in the field by Dick into his dictaphone, including an 8-figure grid reference for each one, later to be entered into the FRDBI.

Left: home for the week – Ardtornish House; right: microscopy in the beautiful ballroom

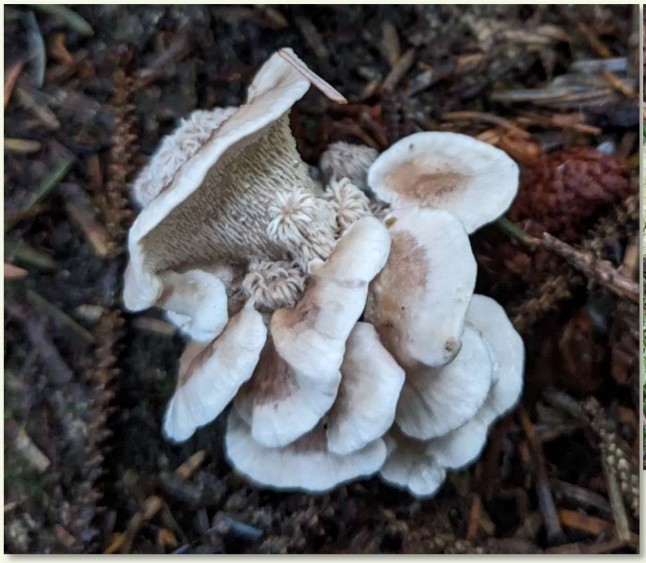
My First Residential Fungus Event, continued…

My first day's foray was in a woodland called Aoineadh Mor (don't ask me to pronounce it). Some 12 different *Cortinarius* species were found in that wood alone (*everneus*, *rubellus*, *flexipes var. flabellus*, *limonius*, *bolaris*, *hemitrichus*, *flabellus*, *acutus*, *anomalus*, *hinnuleus*, *mucosus*, and more). Herald of Winter was also found – on September 8th – oh dear!

Because I was a long way north of my much drier, more southerly, NE England home territory, very many of the fungi being found were new to me but familiar to Scots there, eg *Inocybe calamistrata*, or the beautiful Angel's Wings, which we found a lot. A few fungi were found, eg Horn of Plenty, that were very familiar to me, but excited most of the Scots there. There were also national rarities found, that excited everyone, particularly the Scottish tooth fungi. The rare endemic Hazel Gloves was searched for, but on this occasion, not found. Each foray was generating easily a couple of hundred records, and the opportunities to learn were limited only by what I could take in and retain.

At the end of each day, several exceptional fungal finds were selected by Dick and Graeme, and the names emailed to Roy Watling, for him to choose 'Find of the Day'. And at the end of the week, a prize was awarded for the overall best. This was deservedly won by George Greiff, whose pioneering and painstaking work with bryophytes and bryophilous fungi under the microscope was resulting every day in IDs that were new to Britain!

On day 3, we went as foot passengers on the ferry to Mull, to foray with a group of naturalists from Mull Wildlife Trust, who were anxious to increase their knowledge of fungi. With them was NEFSG's Cath Gillie, who was staying on Mull, and who had given them a talk on fungi the previous evening! She was most surprised to see me. We were also joined for the day by ELFE's Moira, who was sailing up the coast. Eagle-eyed Carolyn found on Mull the attractive *Ionomidotis fulvotingens*, which grows on Willow. Undaunted even when very large hailstones started to fall, we took this as our cue to shelter and have our lunch. Again, the range and quality of fungi found was spectacular – so no lack of wacky fungi for Cameron to impress these keen local naturalists with his explanations, as always, being very clear, and they went away very happy and enthused. One that Cameron showed them was the Scarletina Bolete, *Neoboletus luridiformis*, whose flesh, when cut, turns from yellow to blue in record time.



Left: rare Scottish tooth fungi with Spuce; right: *Cortinarius bolaris*

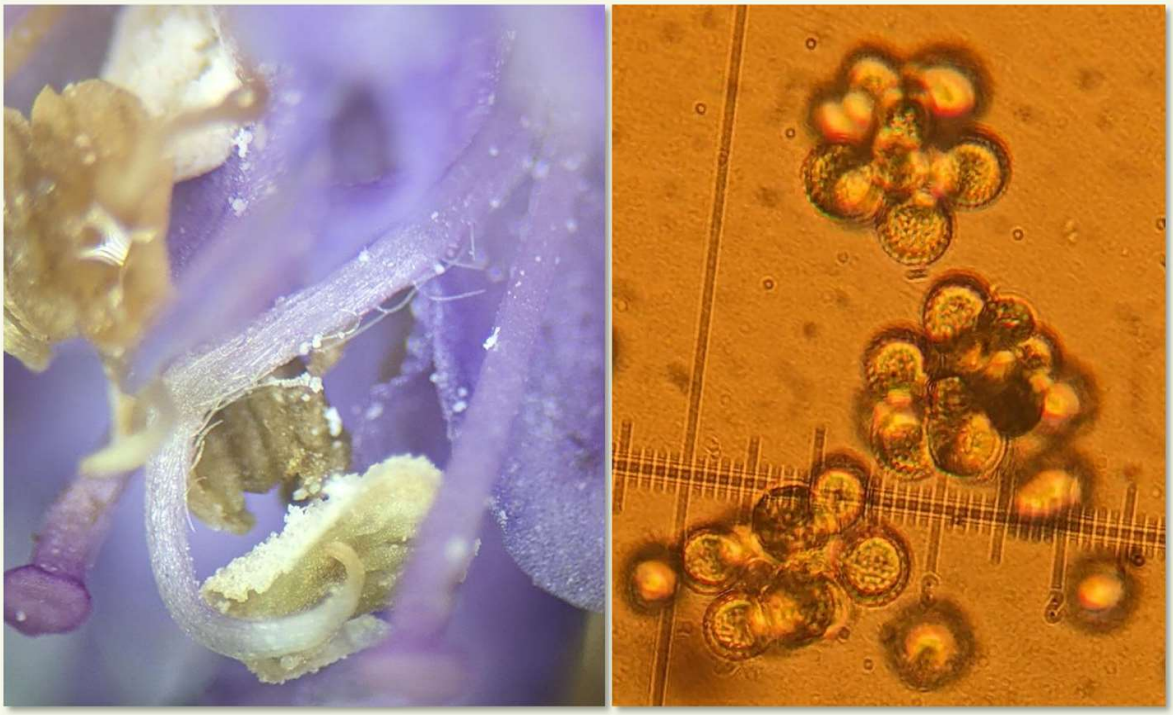
My First Residential Fungus Event, continued…

Another foray followed a woodland trail called Phemie's Walk, beside the village of Strontian (whose name was given to the element Strontium). Here the trees were just dripping with *Lobaria pulmonaria* lichen, showing that we were indeed in the Atlantic Rainforest. The wet climate being so favourable to fungi, once again this site was extremely fruitful for us. One of the very many new-to-me fungi here that I was taken with, was Tiger's Eye, *Coltricia perennis*.

Overall, this area is a treasure trove of rare and beautiful macrofungi: it seemed to yield a very large number of *Russula* species, bolete species, *Lactarius* (*ligniotus* and *repraesentaneus* being two rare ones found on the first day by Gill), puffballs, and Chanterelles, in addition to the very many *Cortinarius* and the BAP list tooth fungi. Several waxcaps were found, including *persistens*, the hygrophanous *aurantiosplendens*, and the rare *ovina* (spotted by Moira).

It was wonderful to have much longer periods of time at the microscope than I manage at home, where there are so many other pressures. Collaborative work was done at the scopes, and much help was given to people who were stuck. I was very grateful to Cameron, who gave me some tips on preparing a slide to examine pycnidia, which have many times thwarted me at home – and I followed the steps he advised for examining another common microfungus that had stumped me at home and achieved a breakthrough!

My own interest in microfungi was very much welcomed and valued, with others soon starting to bring me specimens to identify, some in the field, and others at the microscope, and many then wanting to start finding the same ones. The anther smut on Devil's-bit Scabious, *Microbotryum succisae*, aroused a lot of interest, and by dint of much persistence I also identified a distinctive leaf spot on the same plant: *Septoria scabiosicola*. I learnt to look for a parasite on *Clavulina cristata*, called *Helminthosphaeria clavariarum* – which one day I will find!! I enjoyed looking for microfungi on plants I don't often encounter at home, eg Bog Myrtle, Juniper, Cowberry.



Left: Devil's-Bit Smut, *Microbotryum succisae;* right: Devil's-Bit Smut spores (40X)

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My First Residential Fungus Event, continued…

It was not all fungi, however. A sand quarry, and a working Archimedes Screw on the estate, were visited. We tried to see the Northern Lights, but cloud came over, putting a stop to this venture. Golden Eagles were spotted. Pine Martens ate from our dustbins. At night we could hear migrating geese, rutting stags, and a Barn Owl calling very near to the house. And yes, the other wildlife did include the minor annoyance of midges, ticks and keds (I had to look that last one up).

The week was rounded off by a slap-up barbecue. Wonderful fungi had been found, new friendships had been formed, and old ones cemented – and when the end of the week inevitably arrived, we were all subdued. And after my 8-hour drive home the next day, on top of what had been a very full-on week, I was very tired. I almost didn't go, because I am awaiting an operation, but I am so glad I did! I thoroughly recommend residential foraying experiences and can't wait for more. Neither Carolyn nor I opened the fiction books we had taken to read.

Left: four zombified flies on one Plantain; right: Lob*aria pulmonaria* (Lungwort lichen)

Lichen Lookout

We had a super lichen and fungi hunt on Saturday (26th April) at Stanhope Bridge. A lovely walk along hedgerows and beside the river. We came across an old birds nest that was made from *Ramalina farinacea* and *Evernia prunastri*. We recorded 40 lichen species. New ones for me were *Opegrapha niveoatra* with its many picnidia, *Lecidella elaeochroma* forma *soralifera* and *Physconia enteroxantha*. There was a lot of *Phlyctis argena* painted on the trees with one nearly completely white. A nice fungus find was a patch of *Coprinellus domesticus*.

Lecidella elaeochroma forma soralifera

Physconia enteroxantha

Phlyctis argena