



North Eastern Fungus Study Group

Newsletter No 117 Summer 2025

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NEXT ISSUE: The deadline for articles for the Autumn newsletter is 21st November 2025
All contributions will be gratefully received!



Forthcoming Events

All events meet at **10:30am** for an **11.00am** start unless otherwise stated. If no meeting details they will be sent out by e-mail nearer the time.

Saturday , August 30th Beginner's Foray , Chopwell Wood , Rowlands Gill , 11.00 start

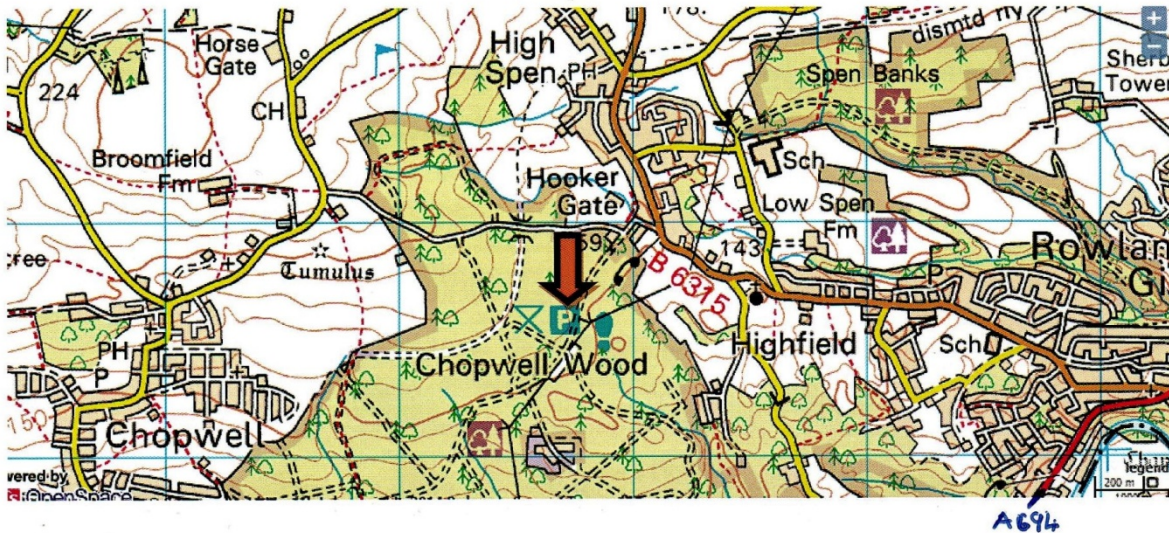
Mixed woodland , a popular foray site for the group . After a brief introductory talk we will walk into the woods immediately by the car park , how far we venture will depend on fungi found . After approx 2 hours we will return to the cars to display the fungi collected and label them . Sally Pattison will give an initial talk , Dom Colback will lead the group with other experts and members on hand to answer any questions .

Mike Cruse will lead a further foray in another part of the wood for those interested at approx 2.00 for up to 2 hours . There may be some uphill sections dependent on where the fungi are . All routes will be along well maintained forest paths .

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.

Grid Ref:- NZ 137 584 post code :- NE39 2AG what3words :- quietly.regal.tonsils

Meet at the information point in the main car park indicated. There is a road in from High Spen/Hookergate.



Sat Sep 6th Black Plantation nr Lanchester - Lesley Hodgson

From the A691 at Lanchester, head SW on the B6296, until you cross the Browney Bridge shortly after the road bends left and downhill. There is room here for a few cars, but car share recommended, some may have to park further up the hill. Grid ref. NZ134451, what3words goose.adopt.police, nearest postcode DL13 4HZ, but this will not take you to the actual site. Habitat is predominantly birch wood, with holly and other broad-leaved trees, and the odd pine. Several small streams run through the wood, which is generally quite damp, and there's a small heathland area below the telegraph poles. Paths can be very muddy after wet weather, waterproof boots essential. Possibly one mile right round.



My mobile no. Is 07713454437, lesleychristinehodgson@hotmail.co.uk

Sun 7th September - Bedburn, Nr Hamsterley, Co Durham, Cath Gillie

Post code:DL13 3PF - what 3 words///campfires.flies.feel)

Grid Reference NZ126 319

11am Park House

Please note the road to Hamsterley from the A68 near Witton castle and the river is closed due to subsidence, therefore follow the diversion signs to Hamsterley and take the road next to the **A68 Café at Toft Hill** and follow the road into Hamsterley village, turn right in the village out of the village and you will see the lane to park house on the left next to the road closed barriers.

The road which becomes a track takes you through lane house farm , then follow signs and track, keep left following signs for NEFSG Foray to bi pass Edge knoll farm, straight onto Park House Grid Ref NZ126 319

Please meet and park cars on hardstanding in the farmyard at the aptly named **Park House** which is a farmhouse at the end of a long private track (please note the track is very rough in places so you will need to drive slowly to avoidpotholes, but it is safe for cars)



A68 Café Toft Hill

We'll explore Adder Wood,mostly oak but with some mixed woodland The track is steep in spots, with no clear path and we may walk up to 2 miles



Cath Gillie Tel 07834 658562 for more details

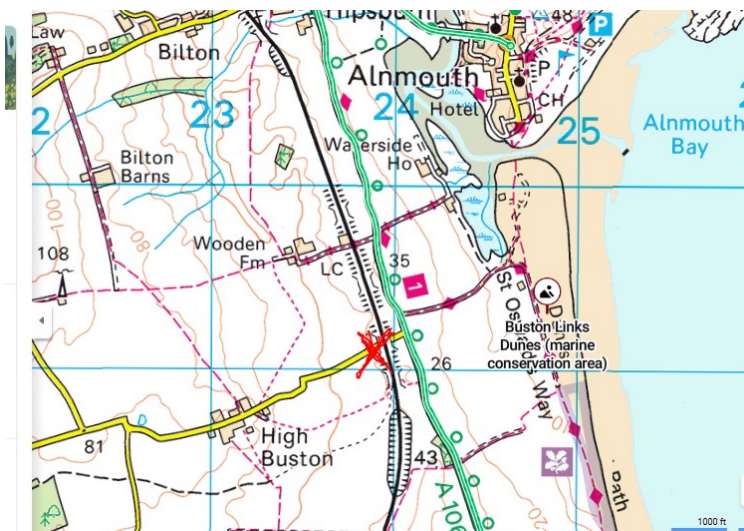
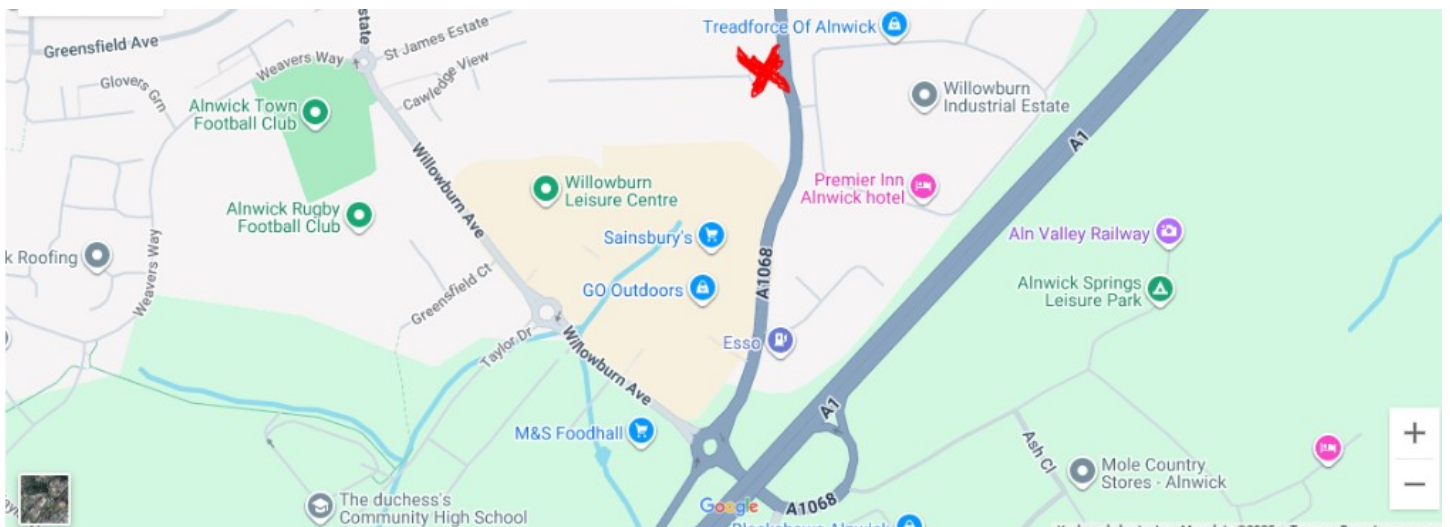
Saturday, September 13th Alnwick Cemetery and Buston Links , NOTE 10.30 START

Alnwick Cemetery dates from 1856 . The tree planting was on a grand scale with a variety of conifers and deciduous trees providing some interesting fungi . We will spend approx 2hrs there . We will then take a 10' drive south 5 miles along the coastal road the A1068 before taking a road on the right signed H.Buston . There is a carpark on the left just past the railway bridge . We will explore the low lying dunes for fungi and perhaps venture along the shoreline , 2 miles , approx 2 hours

For Alnwick Cemetery going north on the A1 take the exit for Alnwick after a roundabout there is a gap in the wall on the left past Sainsbury's and a discrete narrow entrance to the cemetery .
Grid Ref :- NU195 122 Postcode :- NE66 2PH what3words :- repeats.diverting.steepest

For Buston Links

Grid Ref :- NU235 085 Postcode :- NE66 3QH what3words :- polka.flippers.lousy



Sun Sep 14th Hulne Park, Alnwick - Ron Pattison
Sat Sep 20th - Thur Sep 25th Nethy Bridge

Sat Sep 27th Bear Park nr Durham - Lesley Hodgson

Grid ref NZ242431, what3words often.cost.successes, postcode DH7 7BN.

Parking is at the back of Aldin Grange Terrace in Bearpark, which is accessed from Durham Road which runs through Bearpark to the A167. (I can't find a road number.)

This is a large site, owned by Durham County Council, and looked after by the friends of Bearpark Woods, on the site of an old colliery. Numerous paths run through, mostly quite good. I think this was the site of my first foray with the group many years ago, when Durham Wildlife Trust Botany Group teamed up for a joint event. Mixed woodland, some quite young, some more mature.



My mobile no. Is 07713454437, lesleychristinehodgson@hotmail.co.uk.

Sun Sep 28th Hepple, nr Rothbury - Richard Thompson

Sat Oct 4th UK Fungus Day, Venue tba

Sat Oct 11th Stonehaugh, nr Bellingham

Sunday 12th October - Greta Bridge - Cath Gillie

Grid Reference NZ086131

what3words ///debit.capillary.monorail

Post code DL12 9SE

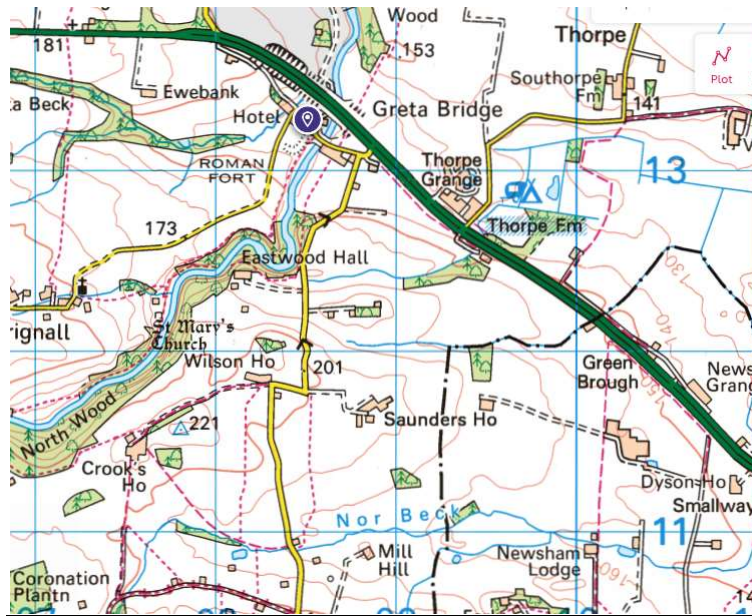
Meet 11 am near the bridge outside the Morritt Arms Hotel

Parking is either on the quiet roadside or behind the hotel on the lane or in the hotel car park (if space allows)

The foray will follow the footpath across fields and next to pine plantation woods above the river, then across fields to the ruins of St Marys Church and then into Tebb wood which is mixed woodland and probably the best place for finding fungi.

The return route is approximately 2.87 miles and the footpath is uneven in places with high stiles, we will return almost the same way. Alternatively, you can walk up a steep lane to Brignall Church at lunchtime and return to Greta Bridge via the old road.

Directions from A1 North or South, at scotch corner take A66 west towards Barnard castle for 10.6 miles then (before the first right turn off to Barnardcastle) turn left following the signs for Greta Bridge and go over the bridge to find the Morritt Arms Hotel.



Cath Gillie/ Alan Simkins Tel 07834 658562 for more details

Saturday October 18th Rokeby , near Barnard Castle - Cath Gillie

At this historic site we will visit the grassland pasture south of the house in the morning and the riverside woods on either side of the River Greta in the afternoon . Our previous visits have been very productive .

Directions from the A1 North or South - take the A66 west at Scotch Corner towards Brough and Penrith follow for 9.3 miles until a right turn for Barnard Castle after .2 miles you will see the entrance to Rokeby park on the right go through the gates and follow the signs to parking at the stables where you will also find toilets.

Grid Ref :- NZ080 142 Postcode:- DL12 9RZ what3words :- inversely.defend.transit

Cath Gillie 07834 658562 cat.gillie@btinternet.com



Sun Oct 19th Snowhope Moor Farm, Weardale - Doug McCutcheon
Sun Oct 26th Urban Foray, Sunderland - Keith Thomas
Sat Nov 1st Cockfield nr Bishop Auckland - Rachel Richards

Sun Nov 2nd Sleightholmedale North Yorks Moors - Rhona Sutherland

Grid ref SE 664 890

Directions:

If coming from Helmsley take A170 towards Kirbymoorside. At the cross roads before Kirbymoorside turn left into Starfitt Lane, signposted Fadmoor. Turn left before Manor farm and follow Green Lane down to Sleightholmedale lodge, signposted Sleightholmedale only.

If coming from Whitby, Pickering or Blakey Ridge on the A170, turn right after Kirbymoorside into Starfitt Lane, signposted Fadmoor. Turn left before Manor farm and follow Green Lane down to Sleightholmedale lodge, signposted Sleightholmedale only.

Parking: If careful, there is room for about 8 cars .

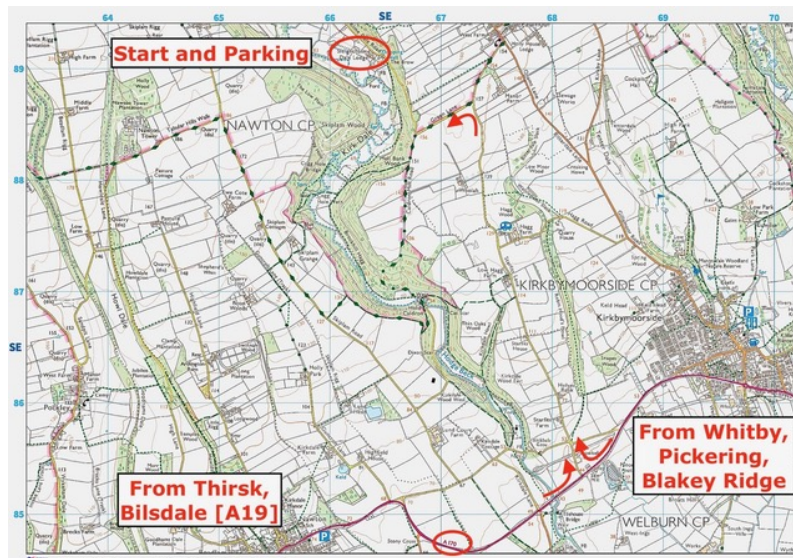
Firstly at the separate green doored garage on the left just before the Sleightholmedale lodge and also through the first gateway into Sleightholmedale lodge holiday lets.

Habitat

As last year the owner Patrick James has kindly allowed us to roam across his fields . This time we will go south through the SSSI along the edge of mixed woodland of beautiful old Oaks, Hazel, Beech, Holly, Hawthorn and along the Hodgebeck and back across unfertilised pastures to the house.

The route of about 4Km uses tracks across fields, no stiles, a few gates and two narrow wooden bridges with handrail on one side only, as well as very good paths through the woodland.

Contact Rhona.sutherland@btinternet.com , Mobile Tel no. 07742978272



Sat Nov 8th Holystone, nr Rothbury - Gaby Recknagel

Sunday November 9th Holy Island

We will foray from The Snook on Holy Island which has been productive on previous NEFSG visits . We will spend the morning in the dunes near the car park and the afternoon westwards in the direction of Snook Point .

Parking is free , safe crossing times are 8.50 till 14.55 .

Grid Ref :- NU103 434 Postcode :- NE71 6XE what3words :- barbarian.blatantly.torch

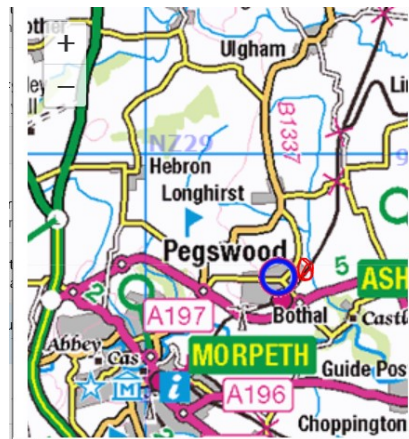
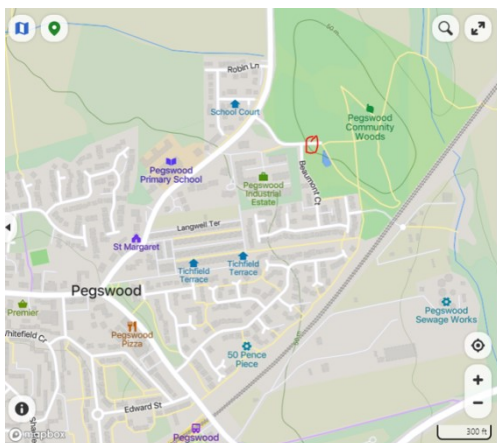
mikecruse@live.com mob :- 07748276183

Sun Nov 16th Pegswood nr Morpeth - Mike Cruse

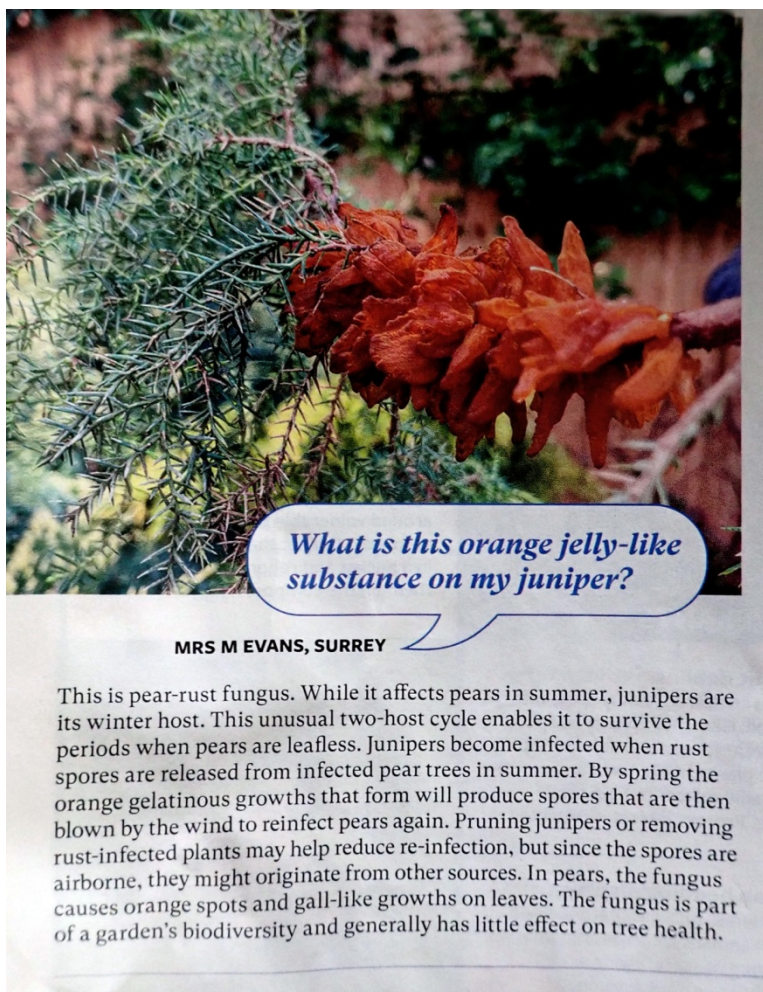
We will foray in Pegswood Community Woods which include woods and surrounding grassland . 2 miles with some moderate inclines .

Grid Ref :- NZ230 877 Postcode :- NE61 6HZ what3words :- derailed.stretch.reviews

mikecruse@live.com mob:- 07748276183



Pear Rust Fungus - RHS



Gymnosporangium sabinae - Alan simkins

Pear rust, caused by several fungi species in the genus *Gymnosporangium* appears primarily on pear and quince trees. Rust fungi in this genus have complicated life cycles that alternate between two different hosts. Initially spots on pear leaves are bright orange and as they mature the underside of the leaf develops a bulky growth from which protrude tiny "fingers" from which the



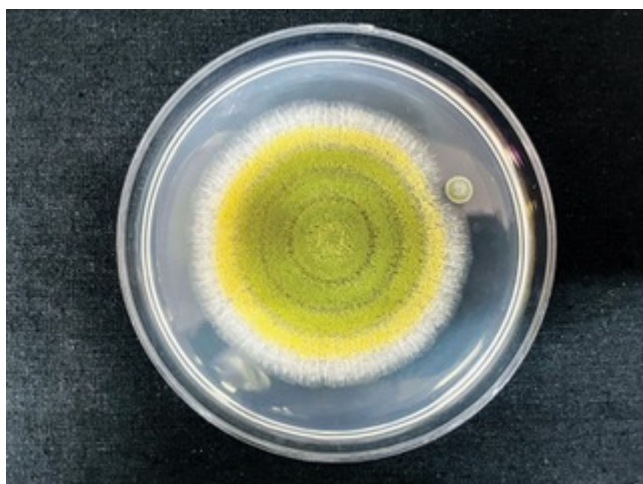
spores are spread. This stage is normally visible from July to October. The spores emitted from pear leaves then survive the winter as galls on juniper trees where they spend several months

before seeking another pear tree for the following year. From late February to May these fungal galls produce conspicuous orange gelatinous spore bearing structures. This clever swapping of hosts ensures a continuous supply of food material for the rust. Different species of *Gymnosporangium* cause different symptoms and signs on cedar trees [*G. globosum* and *G. clavipes*].

New class of anticancer compounds found in fungus

Asperigimycin modified with lipid chain slows proliferation of leukemia cells

Max Barnhart June 26th, 2025 (American Chemical Society)



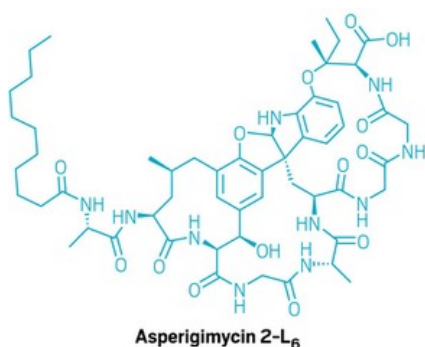
A new class of compounds were found in *Aspergillus flavus*, a fungus that can infect crops and make people sick.

Fungi have produced many of the important drugs we now take for granted. The first [antibiotic, penicillin](#), was discovered in fungi and so were the first statins. But fungi are still an underexplored [source of natural products](#) compared with bacteria. Now scientists publishing in *Nature Chemical Biology* have taken it on themselves to characterize a group of compounds in fungi called ribosomally synthesized and post-translationally modified peptides, or RiPPs for short. And in doing so, they have discovered a new class of compounds in a disease-causing fungus, *Aspergillus flavus*, that the group says [show potential as antileukemia drug candidates](#) (2025, DOI: 10.1038/s41589-025-01946-9).

[Xue “Sherry” Gao](#), a biomolecular engineer at the University of Pennsylvania, led the work. She says her lab was interested in characterizing RiPPs in fungi because only a couple of them had been previously described. Just like any other protein or peptide, RiPPs are genetically encoded in DNA and get translated by ribosomes. But then the molecule undergoes “a series of modification steps to make the compound not so similar to a peptide,” she says.

That means RiPPs tend to have complex structures. And the compounds that Gao and her team found are no exception. “We have seven rings fused together to form this heptacyclic ring structure,” she says. “Cyclic peptides tend to be more stable and have more precision—maybe it

has certain targets intracellularly and is very specific to these targets.”



Gao's team named this family of RiPPs asperigimycins, and the researchers initially tested to see if they had antibiotic activity, but the compounds instead showed a high specificity for targeting leukemia cancer cells.

The team explored whether modifying the asperigimycins could enhance the anticancer capabilities and found that one of the resulting molecules, asperigimycin 2-L₆, compares favorably to two current chemotherapy drugs in its ability to stop human leukemia cells from proliferating in a human cell culture. Gao says the lipid chain on 2-L₆ allows the compound to enter leukemia cells via a transporter protein called SLC46A3, where it can then act to kill the cells.

[Antonis Rokas](#), a fungal biologist at Vanderbilt University who was not affiliated with the study, calls the work a tour de force and says it takes a lot of effort to discover and engineer a molecule the way the authors of the new study have done.

Rokas hopes the work gets people more excited about fungal research. "Fungi are known as the hidden kingdom, the organisms that everybody knows about but very few people study," he says. "They are a treasure. They contain a lot of potential for RiPP production and drug discovery."

Gao says the research team is working to further characterize these asperigimycins and that she is open to collaborations that will help commercialize the molecules. But many more potentially useful RiPPs in fungi are also waiting to be discovered. "We want to learn from what we already know and then hopefully share our experience for discovery," she says.

Hypoxylon fuscoides



Rarely recorded but should be looked for on dead or dying branches or trunks of Alder species. Found on Grey alder (*Alnus incana*) by Doug. At Pow Hill VC66 on 18/07/2020 and again on Grey alder by Sally at Bebside VC67 on 11/07/2025 and in VC81 and VC88 in Scotland on Common alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) by Cameron Diekonigin. It looks very much like *Hypoxylon fuscum* which grows on Hazel but can be confirmed by the koh purplish reaction. If a microscope is not available it should be possible to be seen by placing a small piece of the fruiting body in a drop of K on a slide or other receptacle and after a few minutes it should exude a pale purple pigment whilst *H. fuscum* has a more or less brownish reaction according to F.O.T.E. This is often more easily observed by soaking up the chemical with a piece of white tissue. You may have to wait until the tissue dries.

Sally Pattison & Doug. McCutcheon

Tongues of Fire

I have one Juniper in the garden , I have yet to spot **Tongues of Fire** , *Gymnosporangium clavariiforme* on it , maybe next year . However , in June and July every tree , bush , seedling etc of Hawthorn in the garden was infected by it . Leaves , stalks and berries .



[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gymnosporangium_clavariiforme)

[https://en.wikipedia.org > wiki > Gymnosporangium clavariiforme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gymnosporangium_clavariiforme)
[Gymnosporangium clavariiforme - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gymnosporangium_clavariiforme)

bladminerders.nl

[https://bladminerders.nl > ... > gymnosporangium-clavariiforme](https://bladminerders.nl/.../gymnosporangium-clavariiforme)
[Gymnosporangium clavariiforme – Plant Parasites of Europe](https://bladminerders.nl/.../gymnosporangium-clavariiforme)

Gymnosporangium clavariiforme, commonly known as "Tongues of Fire," is a rust fungus that alternates between junipers and hawthorns, producing distinctive orange spore structures.

Description and Life Cycle

Gymnosporangium clavariiforme is a species of rust fungus that has a complex life cycle involving two different host plants: **junipers** (primarily **Juniperus communis**) and **hawthorns** (such as **Crataegus laevigata**). The fungus exhibits two main stages in its life cycle:

1. **Telial Stage on Junipers:** In the spring, the fungus produces **orange, tentacle-like spore tubes** known as **telial horns** on juniper trees. These structures can appear jelly-like when wet and are most visible during damp weather. They can grow up to 3 cm long and are clustered around the stems of the juniper. [↪ 2](#)
2. **Aecial Stage on Hawthorns:** After the spores are released from the junipers, they are carried by the wind to infect hawthorn trees. On hawthorns, the fungus causes **yellowish depressions** on the leaves and produces **whitish tubes** on the fruit, resembling a Medusa head. This stage can lead to significant damage to hawthorn fruit production. [↪ 2](#)

Ecological Impact

While **Gymnosporangium clavariiforme** does not cause serious damage to junipers, it can significantly affect hawthorns, leading to reduced fruit yield. The fungus's life cycle requires both hosts to complete, making it an interesting subject of study in mycology. [↪ Wikipedia](#) [+1](#)

Identification

The distinctive **telial horns** on junipers are a key identifying feature of this fungus, especially during the spring months. Observers may notice these structures on damp days, where they can appear to make the tree look as if it is "on fire". [↪ Google](#) [+1](#)

Conclusion

Gymnosporangium clavariiforme is a fascinating example of a rust fungus with a unique life cycle that highlights the intricate relationships between different plant species. Its striking appearance and ecological role make it an interesting subject for both amateur and professional mycologists. For those interested in observing this fungus, checking juniper trees during the spring can yield rewarding results.

Mike Cruse

Fungus Snippets Number 3

I qualified as a Forester in 1957 and took up the post as Assistant Forester at Pickering Forest, Newton Dale, Stape. In 1964 I was told to go, with no explanation, to the Pickering District office in the Liberal Club building on Smiddy Hill, Pickering. I attended a meeting with the Conservator and Assistant Conservator for NE England plus the District Officer. I was asked to start a new job, the first in Britain. The job was to open up 10 Forestry Commission forests on the North York Moors and 1 on the Yorkshire Wolds for public recreation and commence wildlife conservation. Large areas of moorland etc were acquired by the Forestry Commission in the 1920s up to the 1950s because the estates could not afford to maintain or plant trees on their poorest lands. The estate staff were transferred to the FC in many instances and the estate foreman became the Forester in charge of most of the 11 forests. These new foresters practised the usual "Keep Out" policy of most estates. I was a grade below these Foresters but, luckily, they accepted my aims as they did not like taking groups around the forest or giving talks to societies. Wildlife conservation was a new job for most of the staff. The rangers employed on rabbit and pest control soon took up the task once I explained the status of my finds and any simple conservation work needed. It added more interest to their work. A District Officer was posted in 1964 from S England to take up the post at Helmsley District office and he said he could do the proposed work I had to carry out so I 'lost' 4 forests. This is just the basic description of the new job.

In 1970, after 6 years in the new job, the Civil Servants attached to the FC decided foresters should not be employed in special posts for more than 5 years so I was moved to Thetford Chase. Just before this autumn move I was walking in Wykeham forest and found a pale yellow spatulate fungus on a dead larch branch. I took a sample to Willis Bramley who spent a lot of time introducing me to fungi. Willis was a farmer at Fairburn Ings and he retired and moved to Pickering as his farm was subsiding due to coal mines under his land. He had seen nothing like this fungus so he sent it to Kew. He dealt with the correspondence because I moved soon after to Suffolk. I saw some of the correspondence. The first reply from Kew was the fungus resembled a species found by a Maori mycologist in Australasia, *Dacrymyces macrocephalus* but we could not use the proposed latin name as it had not to date been published. His latin species was related to the yellow blobs common on the top of gateposts etc.. A few years later somebody at Kew decide my

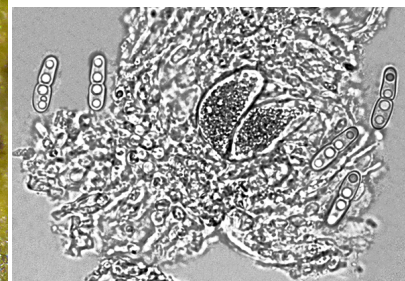
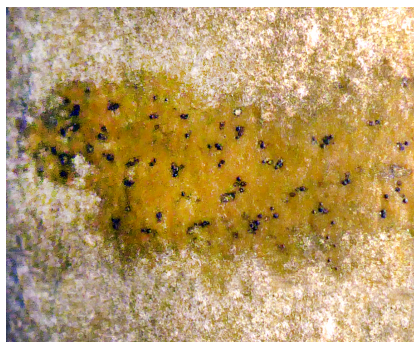
type specimen did not match the Australasian species so he named it *Calocera palidospatulata*. It is a little disappointing to me that it is now so common in N England. Now that I have retired to Torquay I have discovered there is not a record of it in Devon. After I am released from house and gardens confinement I must try to find it in Devon.



Calocera palidospatulata

Gordon Simpson

Lichen Lookout



Arthopyrenia punctiformis



Lecania cyrtella



Dimerella pineti

Some tiny lichens found on trees.

Dimerella pineti found in cracks in the bark of Pines and willows. 0.4mm.

Lecania cyrtella found on rough nutrient rich bark and twigs. 0.5mm

Arthopyrenia punctiformis found on smooth barked trees and twigs. 0.3mm