

Cornwall Fungus Recording Group Review 2020

January 2021



This Review seeks to inform members or non-members of interesting facts about fungi in Cornwall, recorded species - rare or common found by members, events and general news and views from the previous year's events. Contributions from members only of the Cornwall Fungus Recording Group (CFRG) are always welcome – send to the attention of the editor: Tony Hardware via email: tonychat47@btinternet.com

Photos, images etc: Keep to under 1000 pixels where possible, submit as .jpeg saved images.

If interested in joining our group then contact Pauline Penna on: cornwallfungusrg@gmail.com
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As we are unable to have an AGM at the moment, we thought a newsletter might be a good way to keep in touch.

Looking back at last year we seem to have fared rather better than many parts of the UK, most fungus groups stopped all meetings due to Covid restrictions. Here we were able to have a reduced number of meetings whilst adhering to the rules.

Ellie Lynall guided us around Mount Edgcumbe in the mist back in August. It was not particularly fruitful, nearly 30 species, the most interesting of which were in the grassland. This is a site I hope we will be able to visit in early November this year as an ecologist from Plymouth recorded 22 species of waxcaps here over the autumn. This number makes it a national site of importance for grassland fungi.

It was relief to be able to visit Bishop's wood in September after having to cancel three August field days. It was very dry and again fungal species numbers were low. Keith Alexander found the Stereum lookalike *Laxitextum bicolor*, an uncommon species which is gradually spreading across the UK.

Pendarves wood in groups of six made for an interesting day. Species numbers were above 40, the wet alder carr produced three species of *Naucoria*.

On the 30th September only four of us turned up in torrential rain at Trelowarren. An unusually small and stipitate *Daldinia* 'King Alfred's Cakes' was found growing on a fallen sycamore. This was not the usual *D. concentrica* but a species in the *D. childiae* group. It has gone for sequencing and an exact species name is awaited*. It was a surprise to find a large group of 'Jelly Babies' *Leotia lubrica* turning very dark green. They appeared to have been infected with another fungus. Dr Paul Cannon at Kew identified a hyphomycete infection which was probably responsible for the colour change, although there is a dark green species called *L. atrovirens*.

UK fungus day became a virtual event with some interesting online programs put on by the BMS. We however did get to Treraven wood, where our UKFD event was planned to run with the Gaia Trust, sadly it had to just be our group in sixes again. Tony Hardware guided us around the site, it was good to see *Rhodotus palmatus*, 'Wrinkled Peach' (see Picture Gallery review) on elm and one of our 'signature' species, *Hypocreopsis rhododendrii*. Tony found *Flammulaster limulatus* (see Picture Gallery review) an attractive small brown mushroom covered in tiny scales, rarely recorded.

A last-minute arrangement had us meeting at Sheba wood near Luccombe. Here we split up again and were guided by Richard and Betsy Vulliamy and Tony Atkinson. At last the autumn rains had encouraged some fungal growth and we saw well over 60 species. It was interesting to find four species of *Inocybe* and to see the beautiful *Lepiota felina*. It seems difficult now to imagine how this wood has been an important fruit growing site and significant mining area.

Nine of us returned to Trelowarren in much better weather in early November. The old lawns around the house produced a nice array of grassland species, twelve waxcap species have been recorded there this year along with *Entoloma* and clavarioid species. The woodland produced a range of *Mycenas*, a nice 'Collared Earthstar' found by Liz Crow and a strange little *Marasmiellus* which turned out to be *M. omphaliformis*, (*Ed: found and identified by Pauline Penna*), a new species for Britain (see article below). Thanks go to Sir Vyvyan for allowing us to record on the estate, there are many more areas to explore and I hope we will be able to return in the future.

Group members have been out recording on their own during the year and some interesting species have been found. Pauline Penna

*see further details below in this review.

Picture gallery - rare finds on CFRG forays review 2020



Agaricus comtulus – 1st record for 50 years in Cornwall. Mt Edgcombe
© T. Hardware



Naucoria escharoides. Pendarves.
© T. Hardware

Left: *Naucoria celluloderma* – 1st Sth West. Pendarves. © T. Hardware



Paxillus ammoniavirescens - Trelowarren. Showing cap green in Ammonia, hence the name. © P. Penna



Inocybe petiginosa - Trelowarren. © P. Penna



Flammulaster limulatus. Trelowarren
© T. Hardware



Rhodotus palmatus. TreravenW
© T. Hardware



Heboloma pseudowarescens Sheba woods
3rd UK record © T. Hardware

New Daldinia species for the UK!

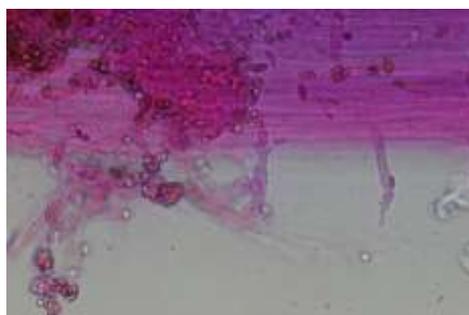
We are all familiar with *Daldinia concentrica* 'King Alfred's Cakes' found on ash trees and occasionally on sycamore but here is another to look out for. DNA studies will hopefully confirm this species shortly. This *Daldinia* has been found on sycamore and eucalyptus in Cornwall, and on birch in Pembrokeshire. It is smaller than *D. concentrica* up to 2.5cm wide, has a small pseudostipe and produces brown pigments in KOH. The other differences are in the spore size and asci structure. If you find any *Daldinia* fitting this description, please collect one if possible and let me know. Pauline Penna



Daldinia cf. *australis* – New to the UK
Trelowarren © P. Penna

Marasmiellus omphaliformis – another new species for UK

This small mushroom was found at Trelowarren growing amongst moss on a poplar tree. It has a pale straw-coloured cap which is minutely hairy, with some brown squamules towards the centre. The gills are strongly decurrent running into the stipe, this also is hairy and darkens towards the base, as is common in the marasmioid group. It is new to the UK, there are very few records worldwide, two from Southern USA, a couple from France and one from Italy. Pauline Penna



Marasmiellus omphaliformis – New to the UK
Trelowarren © P. Penna

And ... yes even another new species for the UK – *Mycena supina*!

Not on an official foray with CFRG, so please forgive me, but on a revitalising walk just before Christmas and the complete lockdown, I visited a local footpath near the village of Sladesbridge, close to where I live in Wadebridge. Expecting not much more than a few ascomycetes perhaps and a *Crepidotus* or two at the time of year, I was about to pass what I thought was exactly this, a few white *Crepidotus*-looking fungi by the side of the footpath alongside the River Allen.

On closer inspection this was obviously a *Mycena* type, whitish and from the *Mycena* sect. *Supinae* (Konrad & Maubl). On inspection and under the microscope, the spores and cheilocystidia became obvious as subglobose spores and clavate shaped, evenly spaced shallow cylindrical excrescences or spiny warts on the cystidia heads. Thinking this had to be an old *M. pseudocorticola* or *M. meliigena* as being within this section, both were quickly eliminated as they both have branched cheilocystidia and larger spores. After some research, and identifying *Mycena supina* found only in a few European countries and even rare there, key ID features for this species could be: Cap centre sepia/brown and translucently striated 50% down, stem towards the base tends to be wider, gills pale grey with clearly seen whiter edge and cap fades on drying quite quickly to a dull grey centre and loses striation lines. The spores were the main identifying feature. Thanks to Alick Henrici (BMS) who agreed to look at the data and photo/micrographs, it was ascertained that the spore Q value for these specimens came out as $Q_{av} \sim 1.25$. A. Aronsen/T. Læssøe states in 'The genus *Mycena* – The fungi of Northern Europe Vol 5' that *M. supina* has a Q value of 1.10. So this became the last and main point of identification for *Mycena supina* (*Fr*) *P. Kumm (1871)*.

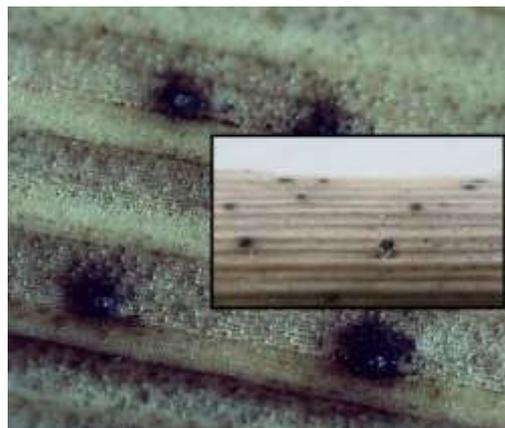


A complete article and description of the species is hopefully due to appear in *Field Mycology* (BMS) later this year in April/May. Tony Hardware

With all these new species being found and many more new species for Cornwall found throughout the year, Cornwall is becoming recognised as a primary source of recording fungi and of adding interesting species to the Mycology knowledge base. Perhaps this is the more moderate climate, perhaps the prevailing wind directions or more likely, the sheer dedication and observation skills of our Group!!

A back garden surprise – and no, the gnome didn't move.

Another interesting find and new to the UK was very much due to the lockdowns and restrictions this year. One to consider perhaps for everyone with a garden with ornamental plants etc., is to consider that fungi grow almost on anything when it dies and the back garden is no different. I was having another stay-in day and decided that, with wellies, the garden may hold some surprises. In the end finding small black dots on the dead cane like stems of Chinese Silver Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) and studying this later, I was amazed to have found a new ascomycetes species for the UK in *Anthostomella tumulosa*. This was verified by Kew. So, what's in your back garden? Now's a great time to grope around the bottom of last year's growth and see what is out there!?



Articles for future issues always welcomed.

About Us

Who are we and what are our aims:

1. To record and document the distribution of fungi in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
2. Promote the conservation of fungi associated habitats.
3. Encourage a greater awareness and understanding of fungal conservation issues in the wider community.

Membership involvement:

If you are interested in observing and/or identifying the enormous variety of fungi that can be found in Cornwall then the Group is open to new members. There is no membership fee just bring your enthusiasm and interest in the fascinating kingdom of fungi.

Forays are arranged throughout the year at a variety of habitats and locations around the County. Whatever your level of knowledge you are very welcome to join, we aim to be inclusive and encouraging to all.

Associated organisations and links:

Cornwall Wildlife Trust: www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/

British Mycological Society: www.britmycolsoc.org.uk

Cornwall Fungus Recording Group is affiliated to the Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

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