

Three Brooks Fungus Foray: Saturday 10th November 2012

9 people attended a fungus foray held at Savage's Wood and surrounding area on a damp but sunny November day. We have previously had a very wet and mostly cool summer, conditions that are not typically conducive to fungus fruiting; most species appear to prefer an initial stimulus temperature of around 23°C coupled with thunderstorm conditions producing warm and humid weather. We spent some time looking over the grasslands, but spent most time searching the woodland and brook valley, which proved a little more fruitful.

Around 33 species were recorded, a figure deemed to be low for the time of year. Many species encountered were typically found throughout the year and more indicative of cooler temperatures. Needless to say, there were a few species of interest; there were large fairy rings of the large funnel shaped *Clitocybe geotropa*, and edible species found in mixed deciduous woods often late in the season. *Daedalea quercina*, the Maze Gill, turned up again as in previous years on very old oak logs. This species may well have affinities for ancient, if not very old, woodland, and indicates a certain amount of ecological continuity of habitat.

Management Suggestions:

1. Create brash piles in the woodland
2. Leave as much dead wood in situ, standing or leaning, where possible
3. Cut meadow areas annually, to a sward height of <10, where possible to ensure soil warming in the summer and hence enhance fruiting; preferably in late July-early September: remove all cuttings/hay
4. Clear bramble and other coarse scrub from around good mycorrhizal trees (oak, beech) to <10cm sward height enhance fungal fruiting.
5. Fell a few trees and leave them to rot where they fall.

All identifications via a combination of;

Fungi of Switzerland (1980-2002)
Flora Agaricina Neerlandica (1987-2007)
Funga Nordica (2012)
Mycena D'Europa (2003)
British Fungus Flora (1970-2001)
Microfungi on Miscellaneous Substrates (1996)
Crepidotus d'Europa (2008)

Recommended beginner's guides with most Badock's Wood species illustrated;

Mushrooms by Roger Phillips (1981 or 2005)

Mushrooms and Toadstools Photo Guide by Paul Sterry and Barry Hughes (2009)

Collins Fungus Guide by Stefan Buczacki (2012)

Species List

Armillaria gallica

Armillaria mellea

Honey Fungus

Auricularia auricula judae

Judas's Ear Fungus

Bjerkandera adusta

Clitocybe geotropa

Coprinellus atramentarius

Common Ink Cap

Crepidotus cesatii

Crepidotus mollis

Soft Slipper Toadstool

Cylindrobasidium evolvens

Daedalea quercina

Maze Gill

Daldinia concentrica

King Alfred's Cakes or Cramp Ball

Diatrypella favacea

Ganoderma australe

Artist's Fungus

Hymenochaete corrugata

Hypholoma fasciculare

Sulphur Tuft

Hyphodontia sambuci

Hypoxylon fuscum

Hypoxylon petriniae

Lacrymaria velutina

Weeping Widow

Lycogala terrestre

Lycoperdon pyriforme

Stump Puffball

Mycena galericulata

Mycena inclinata

Mycena speirea

Mycena vitilis

Nectria cinnabarina

Coral Spot Fungus

Parasola plicatilis

Schizopora paradoxa

Stereum hirsutum

Trametes versicolor

Turkey Tail Fungus

Tremella mesenterica

Yellow Brain Fungus

Xylaria hypoxylon

Candle Snuff Fungus

Xylaria polymorpha

Dead Man's Fingers

Justin Smith