

The Warwickshire Fungus Group Newsletter 2025

Annual Report & Foray Summary

Spring & Summer: A Patient Start

The season began at **Wappenbury Wood** with our annual spring foray. Despite an exhaustive search for the St. George's mushroom (*Calocybe gambosa*), the fungi displayed their typical unpredictability—specimens were only discovered in the parking area, mere meters from the cars, just as the group was departing.

Unfortunately, the late summer foray at **Cawston Spinney** had to be cancelled. Persistently dry, warm conditions prevented fruiting, reminding us how beholden we are to the weather.

Autumn: Breakthroughs and Rarities

By September, the moisture levels began to shift. At **Corley Moor**, we discovered a fascinating myxomycete consisting of small, white, densely clustered globes on dead Aspen bark. After months of intensive research and DNA sequencing by Dinah Griffin and Francisco Verenciano, it was identified as *Badhamia melanospora*—a **first record for the county**.

As we moved into mid-September at **Cook Robin Wood**, fruiting began in earnest. Notable finds included:

- **Redlead Roundhead** (*Leratiomyces ceres*)
- **Steely Bonnet** (*Mycena pseudocorticola*)
- **Veiled Conecap** (*Pholiotina velata*)

Our public foray at **Oakley Wood** was once again a success; this mixed woodland remains one of our most reliable sites for fungal diversity.

Peak Season & Habitat Success

October brought an exceptional foray to **Grendon Common**. The site's rare heathland habitat, bolstered by nearby conifers, produced an outstanding variety. Highlights included iconic species like the **Cep** (*Boletus edulis*) and **Fly Agaric** (*Amanita muscaria*), alongside more challenging IDs such as the **Girdled Knight** (*Tricholoma cingulatum*) and **Woolly Milkcap** (*Lactarius torminosus*).

At **Coughton Park**, we explored a productive mix of acid woodland and heathland managed by the Heart of England Forest. We were grateful for the local guidance of Sam MacVie and the visiting expertise of Clive and Charlotte from the **North West Fungus Group**, whose presence made for a rewarding and educational day.

A Record-Breaking November

November proved to be our most significant month for new discoveries:

- **Temple Balsall:** Recorded *Flammulaster muricatus* (Scaly Spark)—a first for the county.
- **Wellesbourne Wood:** Produced a new county record of *Pluteus chrysophlebius*.
- **Millison's Wood:** This site showed immense potential, yielding a new county record of *Cortinarius lacustris*. We were grateful for the local guidance of Adrian Smith.

Scientific Growth & Skill Sharing

This year marked a significant rise in our group's technical expertise:

- **Microscopy:** Following an indoor meeting at The Barn, members like Simon Woodfield and Russell Tonks have gained the confidence to use microscopes effectively for identification.
- **DNA Sequencing:** Under the guidance of Francisco Verenciano, the group is now utilizing our **Bento Lab** for DNA barcoding, a vital tool for confirming difficult species.
- **Communication:** Naomi's WhatsApp group continues to be an invaluable resource for sharing spore photography and upskilling members in real-time.

Committee & Operations

The group continues to thrive thanks to the dedicated work of our officers:

- **Stephanie Gaskin:** Recording Co-ordinator and foray management.
- **John Walton:** Venue arrangements and public relations.
- **Francisco Verenciano:** County Recorder and Sequencing Officer.
- **Naomi Jenkins:** Newsletter Editor (currently mentoring Fran in the role).



Left: Oakley wood fungi walk. Di Napier. Right: Earpick Fungus, *Auriscalpium vulgare*. Di Napier.

WAPPENBURY WOOD NATURE RESERVE, Sunday 27 April 2025

A Warwickshire Wildlife Trust reserve located just outside Coventry with rich fungal diversity, that the group has regularly visited, albeit not in the Spring.

It is semi-natural ancient woodland, predominantly of oak and hazel, with frequent occurrence of ash, silver birch and aspen along with an occasional holly or crab apple.

Participants: JS, JP, PP, DC, FV, ST, SG, AS, RT, JB, SW, DG, DN, AH
25 species

Basidiomycetes

<i>Agrocybe rivulosa</i>	Wrinkled Fieldcap		FV
<i>Armillaria</i> sp. (rhizomorphs)	Honey fungus		RT
<i>Bolbitius titubans</i>	Yellow Fieldcap	Grass	FV
<i>Conocybe tenera</i>	Common Conecap	Grass	SG
<i>Coprinellus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap		SG
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing Bracket	Hazel	AS
<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>	Hoof Fungus	Silver Birch	DG
<i>Fomitopsis betulinus</i>	Birch polypore	Silver birch	SW
<i>Gymnopus fusipes</i>	Spindle Toughshank		FV
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft		SW
<i>Peniophora cinerea</i>		Hazel	FV
<i>Schizopora paradoxa</i>	Split Porecrust	Hazel	DG
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust		FV
<i>Trametes pubescens</i>	Furry Bracket	Aspen trunk	FV
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail		SW

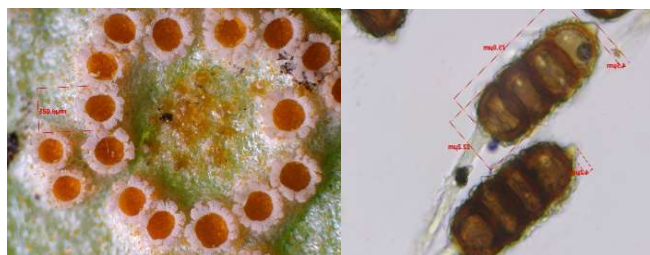
Ascomycetes, Slime Moulds and other micro fungi.

<i>Chlorociboria aeruginescens</i>	Green Elfcup	? Oak wood	DC
<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	King Alfred's Cakes		AH
<i>Hypoxylon fuscum</i>	Hazel Woodwart	Hazel twig	SW
<i>Jackrogersella multiformis</i>	Birch Woodwart	Birch trunk	SG
<i>Kuehneola uredinis</i>	Pale Bramble Rust	Bramble stem	DN (micro)
<i>Lycogala epidendrum</i>	Wolf's Milk Slime Mold		FV
<i>Phragmidium violaceum</i>	Violet Bramble Rust	Bramble leaf	DN (micro)
<i>Puccinia sessilis</i>	Arum rust	Arum maculatum	DN (micro)
<i>Rhopoglyphus filicinus</i>	Bracken Map	Bracken stem	FV
<i>Trochila ilicina</i>	Holly Speckle	Holly Leaf	FV



Left: Yellow Fieldcap, *Bolbitius titubans*.
Picture by Francisco Verenciano.

Right: Common Conecap, *Conocybe tenera*. Picture by Francisco Verenciano.



Left: A rust on Cuckoo Pint leaves. *Puccinia sessilis*. Picture by Di Napier.

Right: Teliospores of *Phragmidium violaceum* on bramble leaves. Picture by Di Napier.

The foray to **Cawston Spinney** planned for **Sunday 31 August** was cancelled due to the hot, dry weather and the very slow start to the fruiting season. We will try this site again in 2026.

CORLEY MOOR NATURE RESERVE, Sunday 7 September

This is an area of common land and woodland managed by the WWT. There are two areas of woodland both small and some wet grassland with interesting vascular plants. The larger area has a large variety of trees considering its small size. Aspen appears to be the dominant tree with several English Elms at the wood entrance. Ash, oak, birch, hawthorn, hazel and elderberry occur regularly throughout. There is a splendid, old and very tall crab apple. The much smaller woodland is dominated by ash and oak. The local Parish Council are keen on conservation and showed interest in what we found.

Participants: SW, SG, FV, NM, SW, CZ
20 species

Basidiomycetes

<i>Abortiporus biennis</i>	Blushing Rosette	Ash	FV
<i>Armillaria (rhizomorphs) sps</i>	Honey Fungus sps	?	FV
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Jelly Ear	Elder	FV
<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	Smoky Bracket	Log pile	FV
<i>Coprinus ephemeroideus</i>	Diaphanous Inkcap	On dung	SG
<i>Crepidotus mollis</i>	Peeling Oysterling	Ash	SW
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing Bracket	?	SG
<i>Ganoderma applanatum</i>	Artist's Bracket	?	FV
<i>Marasmius rotula</i>	Collared Parachute	Rotting wood	FV
<i>Psathyrella candolleana</i>	Pale Brittlestem	Ash	FV
<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>	Common Earth Ball	Soil	FV
<i>Scleroderma verrucosum</i>	Scaly Earthball	Beneath Ash	FV
<i>Trametes hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bracket	Aspen	FV
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail	Log pile	SG
<i>Tubaria furfuracea</i>	Scurfy Twiglet	On moss	FV

Ascomycetes, Slime Moulds and other micro fungi

<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	King Alfred's cakes	Ash	SW
<i>Badhamia melanospora</i>	Slime mould	Aspen	DG (micro)
<i>Fuligo septica</i>	Dog Vomit, slime mould	Silver Birch	FV
<i>Hypoxylon fuscum</i>	Hazel Woodwart	Hazel	NM
<i>Trochila ilicina</i>	Holly Speckle	Holly leaf	SG



Left: Diaphanous Inkcap, *Coprinus ephemeroideus*.
Picture by Francisco Verenciano.

Right: Scurfy Twiglet, *Tubaria furfuracea*. Picture by Francisco Verenciano.



Left: Slime mould, *Badhamia melanospora*.
Sequenced. Picture by Francisco Verenciano.

Right: Blushing Rosette, *Abortiporus biennis*. Picture by Francisco Verenciano.

COCK ROBIN WOOD NATURE RESERVE, Sunday 21 September

Cock Robin Wood is a small wood in Rugby with a wide variety of trees and shrubs and lovely pond. Planted in 1990 by Sainsbury's as mitigation for building the Sainsbury's supermarket, it was given to Rugby Borough Council. Since 2018 Warwickshire Wildlife Trust has managed the woodland to diversify its structure and increase biodiversity.

Participants: MR, DC, JP, PP, SG, TP, JW, NM, DG, SW, KR, CZ
40 species

Basidiomycetes

<i>Abortiporus biennis</i>	Blushing Rosette	Fallen branch	SG
<i>Calocera cornea</i>	Small Stagshorn	fallen branch	KR
<i>Calyprella capula</i>	Bowl Hoodie	Plant stem	SG (micro)
<i>Ceriporus (Polyporus) leptcephalus</i>	Blackfoot Polypore	On log	SG
<i>Ceriporus (Polyporus) squamosus</i>	Dryad's Saddle		SG
<i>Conocybe velata</i>	Veiled Conecap	By edge of path	SG (micro)
<i>Coprinellus micaeus</i>	Glistening Inkcap	Tree stump	SW
<i>Coprinopsis atramentaria</i>	Common Inkcap		SG (micro)
<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	Shaggy Inkcap	On grass	CZ
<i>Crepidotus cesatii</i>	Roundspored Oysterling	Fallen twig	SW
<i>Crepidotus mollis</i>	Peeling Oysterling	On fallen log	SG
<i>Cyanosporus (Postia) subcaesius</i>	Blueing Bracket	Log	SG (micro)
<i>Daedaleopsis confragrosa</i>	Blushing Bracket		DG
<i>Exidia glandulosa</i>	Witches' Butter	Fallen branch	JW
<i>Galerina marginata</i>	Funeral Bell	On log	SG (micro)
<i>Gymnopus androsaceus</i>	Horsehair Parachute	On fallen twig	SG
<i>Gymnopus dryophila</i>	Russet Toughshank		DG (micro)
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	Under hazel	TK
<i>Lepiota cristata</i>	Stinking Dapperling	Under hazel	SG
<i>Leratiomyces ceres</i>	Redlead Roundhead	on path edge	DC
<i>Marasmius rotula</i>	Collared Parachute	Fallen log	SG
<i>Mycena adonis</i>	Scarlet Bonnet	On twig	JW
<i>Mycena filipes</i>	Iodine Bonnet	On twig	SG (micro)
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet	Fallen branch	KR
<i>Mycena galopus</i>	Milking Bonnet	Fallen Branch	SG
<i>Mycena pseudocorticola</i>	Steely Bonnet	On bark	DC
<i>Parasola plicatilis</i>	Pleated Inkcap	Under ash/hazel	SW
<i>Pholiotina velata</i>	Veiled Conecap		SG (micro)
<i>Pleurotus pulmonarius</i>	Pale Oyster	Fallen log	DG
<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	Deer Shield	Fallen tree	TK
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust	Wood pile	DG
<i>Stereum rugosum</i>	Bleeding Broadleaf Crust	Fallen log	SG
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytaill		SG
<i>Trichaptum abietinum</i>	Purplepore Bracket	Log pile	SG

Ascomycetes, slime moulds and other micro fungi

<i>Calycina (Bisporella) citrina</i>	Lemon Disco	Twig	DG
<i>Hymenoscyphus epiphyllus</i>		Leaf mould	TK
<i>Hypoxyton fuscum</i>	Hazel Woodwart	Fallen branch	SG
<i>Kretzschmaria deusta</i>	Brittle Cinder		DG
<i>Lachnum virgineum</i>	Snowy Disco		TK
<i>Lycogala epidendrum</i>	Wolf's Milk	On oak	SG
<i>Physarum album</i>	Slime Mould	On log	DG (micro)



Left: Veiled Conecap, *Pholiotina velata*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

Right: Redlead Roundhead, *Leratiomyces ceres*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.



Left: Steely Bonnet, *Mycena pseudocorticola*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

Right: Lemon Disco, *Calycina citrina*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.



Left: Slime mould with lime-encrusted peridium, *Physarum album*. Picture by Simon Woodfield.

Right: Stinking Dapperling, *Lepiota cristata*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.



Left & Right: Tiny yellow cap fungus, *Hymenoscyphus* cf. *epiphyllus*, that grows on decaying leaves. Pictures by Tim Knight.



Left: Deer Shield, *Pluteus cervinus*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

Right: Shaggy Inkcup, *Coprinus comatus*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

GRENDON COMMON, Sunday 5 October

This is mixed woodland of birch, oak, pine, beech, sycamore, lots of goat willow and scattered holly, much of it planted on the spoil heap of the old Baddesley pit, which is now a storage area for luxury cars. There is some very old overgrown and collapsed heather beneath the trees and a small area is dominated by species of Cladonia lichens, Sphagnum moss and vascular plants that favour an acidic, low-nitrogen habitat. Despite only a small area of the wood being surveyed the list is fairly substantial. Grendon Common is a Local Wildlife Site.

Participants: JB, HB, SW, FV, JW, SW, YC, SG

59 species

Basidiomycetes.

<i>Amanita citrina</i>	False Deathcap	Birch/Oak	FV
<i>Amanita fulva</i>	Tawny Grisette	Birch/heather	FV
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric	Birch	HB
<i>Amanita rubescens</i>	Blusher	Birch	FV
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Jelly Ear	Fallen branch	SG
<i>Boletes edulis</i>	Penny Bun/Cep	Oak	FV
<i>Clavulina coralloides</i>	Crested Coral Fungus	Soil	SG
<i>Corpinellus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap	Fallen log	SG
<i>Cortinarius alboviolaceus</i>	Pearly webcap	Birch/Goat willow	SG
<i>Cortinarius hemitrichus</i>	Frosty webcap	Birch	FV
<i>Cortinarius sp.</i>		Birch	SG (TBC)
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing bracket	Oak	FV
<i>Entoloma rhodopodium</i>	Wood Pinkgill	Birch/Goat willow	SG
<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>	Hoof Fungus	Birch	FV
<i>Fomitopsis betulinus</i>	Birch Polypore	Birch	SW
<i>Galerina hypnorum</i>	Moss Bell	Moss	SG
<i>Ganoderma applanatum</i>	Artist Bracket	? oak stump	SG
<i>Hebeloma cristuliniforme</i>	Poisonpie		FV
<i>Hebeloma sacchariolens</i>	Sweet Poisonpie		FV
<i>Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca</i>	False Chanterelle	Grass	FV
<i>Hygrophorus eberneus</i>	Ivory Woodwax	Leaf litter	SG (TBC)
<i>Hymenopellis radicata</i>	Rooting Shank	Soil	FV
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft		SW
<i>Imleria badia</i>	Bay bolete	Oak	FV
<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>	Amethyst Deceiver	Birch	SG
<i>Lacrymaria lacrymabunda</i>	Weeping Widow	Buried twigs	SW
<i>Lactarius deterrimus</i>	False Saffron Milkcap	Pine	FV
<i>Lactarius glyciosmus</i>	Coconut Milkcap	Birch/moss	SG
<i>Lactarius quietus</i>	Oakbug Milkcap	Oak	FV
<i>Lactarius rufus</i>	Rufous Milkcap	Birch/moss	SG
<i>Lactarius tabidus</i>	Birch Milkcap	Birch	FV
<i>Lactarius torminosus</i>	Woolly Milkcap	Birch	SG
<i>Lactarius vietus</i>	Grey Milkcap	Birch/moss	SG
<i>Leccinum scabrum</i>	Birch Bolete	Birch	FV
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	Common Puffball	Soil	SG
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet	Fallen branches	SG
<i>Mycena inclinata</i>	Clustered Bonnet	Fallen log	FV
<i>Paxillus involutus</i>	Brown Roll Rim		JW
<i>Pholiota squarrosa</i>	Shaggy Scalycap	Rowan	FV
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Oyster Mushroom		FV
<i>Russula atropurpurea</i>	Purple Brittlegill	Oak	FV
<i>Russula gracillima</i>	Slender Brittlegill	Birch	SG
<i>Russula heterophylla</i>	Greasy Green Brittlegill	Larch	SG
<i>Russula luteotacta</i>	Yellowstaining Brittlegill	Pine	SG (TBC)
<i>Russula nitida</i>	Purple Swamp Brittlegill		SG (TBC)
<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Ochre Brittlegill	Birch	FV
<i>Russula sanguinaria</i>	Bloody Brittlegill	Pine	SG

<i>Stropharia pseudocyanea</i>	Peppery Roundhead	Grass	FV
<i>Tricholoma cingulatum</i>	Girdled Knight		FV
<i>Tricholoma fulvum</i>	Birch knight	Birch	SG
<i>Tubaria furfuracea</i>	Scurfy twiglet		SG
<i>Xerocomellus cisalpinus</i>	Bluefoot Bolete		FV
<i>Xerocomellus porosporous</i>	Sepia Bolete		FV
<i>Xerocomellus pruinatus</i>	Matt Bolete	Oak	FV

Ascomycetes, slime moulds and other micro fungi

Scientific Name	Common Name	Substrate	Determiner
<i>Helmithosphaeria clavariarum</i>		On Crested Coral Fungus	SG
<i>Hypomyces chrysospermus</i>	Bolete eater	On bolete	JW
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>		Sycamore leaf	JW
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	Candlesnuff Fungus	Fallen twig	FV
<i>Xylaria longpipes</i>	Dead Molls Fingers	Soil	SG



Left: Penny Bun, Cep, *Boletus edulis*.
Picture by Hellen Burnell.

Right: Fly Agaric, *Amanita muscaria*.
Picture by Hellen Burnell.



Left: Girdled Knight, *Tricholoma cingulatum*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

Right: Purple Swamp Brittlegill, *Russula nitida*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.



Left: Rooting Shank, *Hymenopellis radicata*. Picture by Hellen Burnell.

Right: Rufous Milkcap, *Lactarius rufus*. Picture by Hellen Burnell.

COUGHTON PARK near ALCESTER, Sunday 19 October

Coughton Park: an acid woodland and heathland dominated by Corsican pine with red oak, scattered clumps of birch and a sprinkling of sessile oak. We were joined by a couple from The North West Fungus group, Clive and Charlotte, who had been foraging for fifteen years and whose knowledge and identification skills we all benefited from. The site is part of the Heart of England Forest and Sam MacVie from the HOEF showed us around the site.

Participants: HM, FV, SM, JP, PP, DG, JW, JW, TK, SW, CG, CA, SG

64 species

Basidiomycetes

<i>Abortiporus biennis</i>	Blushing Rosette	Tree stump	SG
<i>Amanita citrina</i>	False Deathcap	Under oak	FV
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric	Under birch	TK
<i>Amanita rubescens</i>	The Blusher	Under birch/pine	TK
<i>Ampulloclitocybe clavipes</i>	Club-foot	Under fallen log	CG
<i>Armillaria gallica</i>	Bulbous Honey Fungus	On stump	SG
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey Fungus	On stump	TK
<i>Calocera pallidospathulata</i>	Pale Stagshorn	On tree stump	CG
<i>Calocera viscosa</i>	Stagshorn	Tree stump	CG
<i>Collybiopsis confluens</i>	Clustered Toughshank		CG
<i>Collybiopsis ramealis</i>	Twig Parachute	On twig	CG
<i>Coprinellus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap	On log	JW
<i>Coprinopsis picacea</i>	Magpie Inkcap	In grass	SG
<i>Crepidotus spp.</i>	Oysterling	On twig	FV
<i>Cynosporus (Postia) subcaesia</i>	Blueing Bracket	Fallen branch	CG
<i>Formitopsis betulina</i>	Birch Polypore	On birch	FV
<i>Gymnopilus penetrans</i>	Common Rustgill	On log	FV
<i>Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca</i>	False Chanterelle	In grass	DG
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	On log	TK
<i>Imleria badius</i>	Bay Bolete		FV
<i>Ischnoderma benzoinum</i>	Bezoen Bracket	Pine stump	CG
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	The Deceiver	In grass	SG
<i>Lacrymaria lacrymabunda</i>	Weeping widow	On soil	FV
<i>Lactarius hepaticus</i>	Liver Milkcap		CG
<i>Lactarius quietus</i>	Oakbug Milkcap	Under oak	CG
<i>Leccinum scabrum</i>	Birch Bolete	Under birch	FV
<i>Leccinum duriusculum</i>	Slate Bolete	Under aspen	FV
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	Common Puffball	Fallen tree debris	SG
<i>Mycena arcangeliana</i>	Angel's Bonnet	On log	CG
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet	On log	CG
<i>Mycena haematopus</i>	Burgundydrop Bonnet	on log	FV
<i>Mycena inclinata</i>	Clustered Bonnet	Log	CA
<i>Mycena pseudocorticola</i>		On moss on log	CG
<i>Mycena rosea</i>	Rosy Bonnet	On soil	CG
<i>Neoboletus luridiformis</i>	Scarletina bolete		FV
<i>Paxillus involutus</i>	Brown Rollrim		FV
<i>Peniophora incarnata</i>	Rosy Crust	fallen branch	CG
<i>Phlebia radiata</i>	Wrinkled crust	On fallen branch	CG
<i>Phlebia tremellosa</i>	Jelly rot	Fallen branch	CA
<i>Picipes badius</i>	Bay polypore	On fallen branch	SG
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Oyster Mushroom	On log	FV
<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	Deer Shield	On log	FV
<i>Postia ptychogaster</i>	Powderpuff Bracket	On stump	CG
<i>Postia tephroleuca</i>	Greyling Bracket		CG
<i>Pseudolyophyllum metachroum</i>	Twotone Funnel	In grass	CG
<i>Rhodocollybia butyracea</i>	Buttercap	In grass	FV
<i>Russula rosea (lepida)</i>	Rosy Brittlegill	Under birch/oak	SG
<i>Russula atropurpurea</i>	Purple Brittlegill	Under oak	SG

<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Ochre Milkcap		CG
<i>Skeletocutis amorpha</i>	Rusty Crust	On log	CG
<i>Stereum gausaptum</i>	Bleeding Oak Crust	On fallen branch	CG
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust	Fallen branch	CG
<i>Suillus luteus</i>	Slippery Jack	In grass	FV
<i>Typhula quisquiliaris</i>	Bracken Club Fungus	on bracken stem	CG (micro)
<i>Xerocomellus cisalpinus</i>	Bluefoot Bolete		CG
<i>Xerocomellus pruinatus</i>	Matt bolete		FV

Ascomycetes, slime moulds and other micro fungi

<i>Cudoniella acicularis</i>	Oak Pin	Tree stump	CG
<i>Diatrype stigma</i>	Common Tar Crust	Fallen branch	CG
<i>Diatrypella quercina</i>	Oak Blackhead	Oak branch	CG
<i>Hypocera rubella</i>		On birch polypore	CG
<i>Hypoxyton multifforme</i>	Birch Woodwort	Fallen branch	CG
<i>Phacidium lauri</i>	Holly Speckle	Holly Leaf	CG
<i>Phialina flaveola</i>		Bracken stem	FV (micro)
<i>Rhopoglyphus filicinus</i>	Bracken Map	Bracken stem	CG
<i>Trochila ilicina</i>	Holly Speckle	Holly leaf	CG



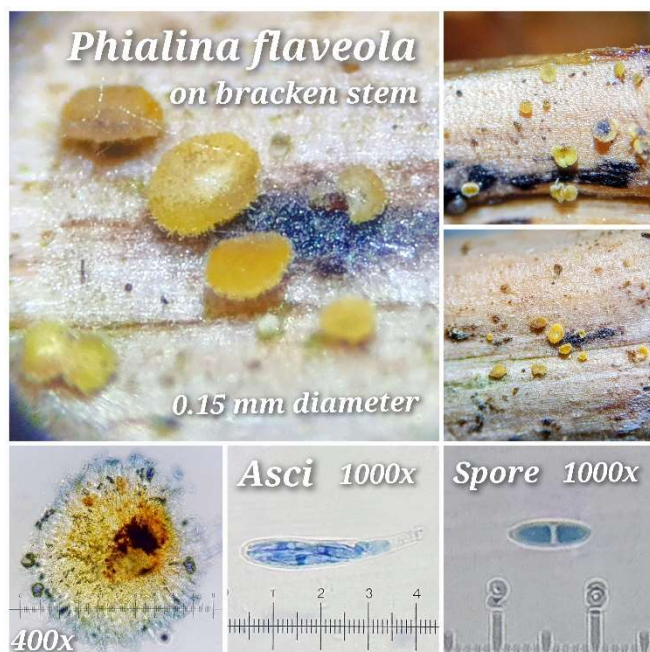
Left: Bracken Club, *Typhula quisquiliaris*. Picture by Francisco Verenciano.

Right: Slippery Jack, *Suillus luteus*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.



Left: Powderpuff Bracket, *Postia ptychogaster*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

Right: Magpie Inkcap, *Coprionopsis picacea*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.



Left: *Phialina flaveola*. Picture by Francisco Verenciano.

TEMPLE BALSALL, Sunday 2 November

After a fantastic foray here in 2024, in the meadow areas clubs, corals and waxcaps were very thin on the ground. We did manage to get to the location of the nature reserve, where access has now been restricted by the Wildlife Trust to a thin strip alongside the Cuttle river.

Participants: HB, SW, PP, JP, RT, SW, SL, LL, EL, AS, SG, AS
65 species

Basidiomycetes

<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric	Under birch	AS
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey Fungus	Tree stump	RT
<i>Atheniella flavoalba</i>	Ivory Bonnet	Grassland	AS
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Wood Ear	Tree stump	SG
<i>Calocera cornea</i>	Small Stagshorn	Tree stump	SG
<i>Clavulinopsis corniculata</i>	Meadow coral	Grassland	EL
<i>Clavulinopsis helvola</i>	Yellow Club	Grassland	SG (micro)
<i>Clitocybe fragrans</i>	Fragrant Funnel	Grassland	AS
<i>Clitocybe nebularis</i>	Clouded Funnel		SG
<i>Collybia sordida</i>	Sordid Blewit	In leaf litter	SG (micro)
<i>Coprinellus disseminates</i>	Fairy Inkcap	On gats	AS
<i>Coprinellus lagopus</i>	Hare'sfoot Inkcap	Grass/ woodchip	AS
<i>Coprinellus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap		SW
<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	Shaggy Inkcap	Grassland	SW
<i>Crepidotus spp</i>	Oysterling	Twig	SW
<i>Cuphophyllus pratensis</i>	Meadow Waxcap	Grassland	SG
<i>Cuphophyllus virgineus</i>	Snowy Waxcap	Grassland	AS
<i>Dacrymyces stillatus</i>	Common Jellyspot	Log	SW
<i>Exidia nucleata</i>	Crystal brain	fallen branch	EL
<i>Flammulaster muricatus</i>	Scaly Spark	On very soft wood	SG (micro)
<i>Flammulina velutipes</i>	Velvet Shank	on branch	EL
<i>Fomitopsis betulina</i>	Birch Polypore	Birch	SW
<i>Galerina hypnorum</i>	Moss Bell	Grass	SG
<i>Ganoderma applanatum</i>	Artist Bracket	Tree stump	SG
<i>Gliophorus psittacina</i>	Parrot Waxcap	Grassland	EL
<i>Gymnopus dryophila</i>	Russet toughshank	Under oak	SG
<i>Hygrocybe conica</i>	Blackening Waxcap	Grassland	SL
<i>Hygrocybe reidii</i>	Honey Waxcap	Grassland	AS
<i>Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca</i>	False Chanterelle	Grass	RT
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	On log	RT
<i>Hypholoma lateritium</i>	Brick Tuft	On log	SG
<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>	Amethyst Deceiver	by log	SG
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	The Deceiver	Grassland	SG
<i>Lactarius fulvissimus</i>	Tawny Milkcap	Under sequoia	SG (TBC)
<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>	Chicken of the Woods	Fallen from Yew tree	AS
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	Common Puffball	Tree stump	RT
<i>Lycoperdon pyriforme</i>	Stump Puffball	Tree stump	SW
<i>Macrolepiota procera</i>	Parasol	Grassland	RT
<i>Melanoleuca polioleuca</i>	Common Cavalier	Grassland	RT
<i>Mycena aetites</i>	Drab Bonnet	Grassland	SG
<i>Mycena cinerella</i>	Mealy Bonnet		SG (micro)
<i>Mycena clavularis</i>	Needle Bonnet		SG (micro)
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet	Fallen log	SG
<i>Mycena haematopus</i>	Burgundy-drop Bonnet	On log	SG
<i>Mycena inclinata</i>	Clustered Bonnet	On log	SW
<i>Mycena olivaceomarginata</i>	Brown-edged Bonnet		SG
<i>Mycena vitilis</i>	Snapping Bonnet	Soil	EL/SG
<i>Parasola auricoma</i>	Goldenhaired Inkcap	Grass	SG (micro)
<i>Pholiota squarrosa</i>	Shaggy Scalycap	On Cherry	SG
<i>Pluteus salicinus</i>	Willow Shield	On log	SG
<i>Psathyrella corrugis</i>	Red-edge Brittlestem	On woodchip	SG (micro)
<i>Psathyrella pseudogracilis</i>		On woodchip	SG (micro)

<i>Russula atropurpurea</i>	Purple Brittlegill	Under oak	SG
<i>Russula cyanoxantha</i>	Charcoal Burner	Under yew	AS
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy curtain crust	On log	RT
<i>Trametes ochracea</i>	Ochre Bracket	Tree stump	RT
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail	Log	SG
<i>Tubaria conspersa</i>	Felted Twiglet		SG (micro)

Ascomycetes

<i>Hypoxylon fuscum</i>	Hazel Woodwart	Fallen branch	SG
<i>Calycina claroflava</i>	Sulphur Disco	Woody debris	SG
<i>Hymenoscyphus scutula</i>		herbaceous debris	SG (micro)
<i>Nectria cinnabarina</i>	Coral Spot	Fallen twig	EL
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Black Tar Spot	Sycamore leaves	SG
<i>Trichia varia</i>	Slime mould	Tree stump	SG (micro)
<i>Xylaria polymorpha</i>	Dead Mans' Fingers	log	SG



Left: *Trichia varia*. Picture by Simon Woodfield.

Right: Sulphur Disco, *Calycina claroflava*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.



Left: Needle Bonnet, *Mycena clavularis*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

Right: Brown-edge Bonnet, *Mycena olivaceomarginata*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.



Left: *Hymenoscyphus scutula*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

Right: Scaly Spark, *Flammulaster muricatus*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.



Left: Ascospores of *Hymenoscyphus scutula*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

Right: Spores of *Psathyrella pseudogracillis*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

WELLESBOURNE WOOD, Sunday 9 November

A private woodland, very young with uniform stands of birch, pine and sycamore, a little ash and oak, but no understorey.

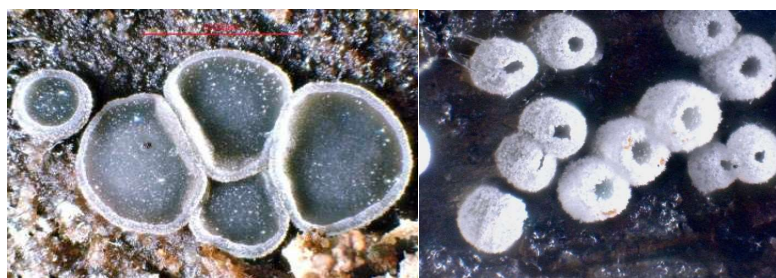
Participants: DN, RT, EL, JP, PP, SG
35 species

Basidiomycetes

<i>Calocera cornea</i>	Small Stagshorn	woodpile	SG
<i>Chondrostereum purpureum</i>	Silverleaf Fungus	fallen trunk	SG
<i>Coprinellus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap	Wooden debris	RT
<i>Coprinopsis atramentaria</i>	Common Inkcap		SG
<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	Shaggy Inkcap	grass	PP
<i>Crepidotus autochthonus</i>		Tree stump	DN (micro)
<i>Crepidotus mollis</i>	Peeling Oysterling	Woody debris	SG
<i>Dacrymyces stillatus</i>	Common Jelly spot	log	EL
<i>Hemimycena crispula</i>		Herbaceous stem	SG (micro)
<i>Henningsomyces sp.</i>			DN
<i>Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca</i>	False Chanterelle	Under pine	SG
<i>Lactarius fulvissimus</i>	Tawny Milkcap	Under pine	SG (micro)
<i>Marasmiellus ramealis</i>	Twig Parachute	Woody debris	SG (micro)
<i>Mycena filipes</i>	Iodine Bonnet	Fallen log	SG
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet		SG
<i>Panellus stipticus</i>	Bitter Oysterling		SG
<i>Parasola plicatilis</i>	Pleated Parasol		RT
<i>Phleogena faginea</i>	Fenugreek Stalkball	Tree trunk ?sp	DN
<i>Phloeomana hiemalis</i>	Winter Bonnet	woody debris	DN (micro)
<i>Phloeomana speirea</i>	Bark Bonnet	Log	DN (micro)
<i>Pluteus chrysophaeus</i>	Yellow Shield	Tree stump	DN (micro)
<i>Pluteus salicinus</i>	Willow shield	Fallen log	SG
<i>Psathyrella tephrophylla</i>		Fallen log	DN (micro)
<i>Seticyphella sp.</i>		Plant stem	SG
<i>Simocybe centunculus</i>	Dingy Twiglet	log	SG (micro)
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust	Woodpile	RT
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail		JP

Ascomycetes, slime moulds and other micro fungi

<i>Cyathicula cyathoidea</i>		herbaceous stem	SG (micro)
<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	King Alfred's Cakes	Fallen branch	EL
<i>Hypoxylon multifforme</i>	Birch Woodwart	Fallen branch	DN
<i>Mollisia cinerea</i>	Common Grey Disco	woody debris	DN (micro)
<i>Physarum album</i>	Slime mold	inner bark	SG (micro)
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Tar-spot Fungus	Sycamore leaf	EL
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	Candlesnuff	branch	RT
<i>Xylaria longpipes</i>	Dead Moll's Fingers	log	DN (micro)



Left: Grey Disco, *Mollisia cinerea*. Picture by Di Napier.

Right: *Henningsomyces sp.*
Picture by Di Napier.

Psathyrella tephrophylla (= *P. fusca*)

Cap 5 cm, striate half way. Gills dark grey. Spores c. 10.5-11.5 x 5-6 µm. With both gill-edge cystidia and gill-face cystidia. Gill-edge cystidia 2 types. Droplets on cystidia go slightly greenish in ammonia.



Left: *Psathyrella tephrophylla*. Picture by Di Napier.

Typhula sp. (maybe *Typhula gyrans*)

On fallen Aspen leaf. Stems start white but brown with age. No sclerotia seen (different references disagree whether say *T. gyrans* has sclerotia). Spores 6.5-8 x 3-4 µm.



Left: *Typhula* cf. *gyrans*. Picture by Di Napier.

MAYS WOOD, WOOTTON WAWEN, Sunday 16 November

A lovely private wood of two halves. The uphill with more plantation trees, European larch, red oak, Scots Pine and other evergreens. The lower slope more Sessile oak, Aspen, Silver birch, Scots Pine, a random yew, crab apple and an understorey of holly and hazel. There was a lot of fallen timber.

Participants: SW, JW, DG, SW, NM, RT, SG

41 species

Basidiomycetes

<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	Smoky Bracket		SW
<i>Calocera viscosa</i>	Yellow Stagshorn	Tree stump	SG
<i>Clitocybe fragrans</i>	Fragrant Funnel		DG
<i>Collybia butyracea</i>	Buttercap		RT
<i>Coprinellus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap	Wood stump	RT
<i>Coprinopsis lagopus</i>	Hare'sfoot Inkcap	Grass	SW
<i>Crepidotus epibyrus</i>	Grass Oysterling	Woody debris	DG (micro)
<i>Dacrymyces stillatus</i>	Common Jelly spot		SG
<i>Daldaeopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing Bracket	Fallen log	SG
<i>Exidia glandulosa</i>	Witches' Butter	Fallen log	RT
<i>Exidia thuretiana</i>	White Brain	Fallen log	SG
<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>	Hoofed fungus		SG
<i>Fomitopsis pinicola</i>	Red-belted bracket	Fallen tree	SG
<i>Galerina marginata</i>	Funeral Bell	Fallen birch	SG
<i>Gymnophilus penetrans</i>	Common Rustgill	Wood debris	SG
<i>Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca</i>	False Chanterelle	Under pine	SG
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	Tree stump	SW
<i>Imleria badia</i>	Bay Bolete	Oak/Pine	SG
<i>Infundibulicybe geotropa</i>	Trooping Funnel		SG
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	The Deceiver		DG
<i>Marasmiellus ramealis</i>	Twig Parachute	Twig debris	SG (micro)
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet		SG
<i>Mycena inclinata</i>	Clustered Bonnet	Tree stump	SG
<i>Mycena rosea</i>	Rosy Bonnet	grass	JW
<i>Peniophora quercina</i>	Oak Crust	Fallen log	SG
<i>Phlebia tremellosa</i>	Jelly Rot		SG
<i>Phleogena faginea</i>	Fenugreek Stalkball		SG
<i>Phloeomana speirea</i>	Bark Bonnet	Woody debris	SG
<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	Deer Shield	Fallen log	SG
<i>Pseudoclitocybe cyathiformis</i>	The Goblet		DG
<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Ochre Brittlegill	Oak	SG
<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>	Common Earthball		JW
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust		RT
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkey Tail		SW
<i>Trichaptum abietinum</i>	Purplepore bracket	Fallen tree	SG
<i>Tricholoma sulphureum</i>	Sulphur Knight	? birch	DG
<i>Tubaria conspersa</i>	Felted Twiglet		SG

Ascomycetes, slime moulds and other micro fungi

<i>Ascocoryne Sarcoides</i>	Purple Jellydisc	log	SG (micro)
<i>Hypoxyylon fuscum</i>	Hazel Woodwart		SG
<i>Mollisia cinerea</i>	Common Grey Disco		SG
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Black-tar Spot	Sycamore leaf	DH



Left: The Goblet, *Pseudoclitocybe cyathiformis*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

Right: Rosy Bonnet, *Mycena rosea*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.



Left: Yellow Stagshorn, *Calocera viscosa*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

Right: Witches' Butter, *Exidia glandulosa*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.



Left: Smoky Bracket, *Bjerkandera adusta*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

Right: Deer Shield, *Pluteus cervinus*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.



Left: Oak Crust, *Peniophora quercina*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

Right: Purple Jellydisc, *Ascocoryne sarcoides*. Picture by Stephanie Gaskin.

MILLISONS WOOD, Sunday 30 November

A lovely wood once part of the large Arden Forest and retaining a healthy woodland structure of ground flora, shrub layer and canopy. It has the National Vegetation Classification of W10 Quercus robur-Pteridium aquilinum-Rubus fruticosus woodland.

Participants: FV, DG, KR, SW, RT, SG, AS

44 species

Basidiomycetes

<i>Agaricus silvicola</i>	Wood Mushroom		SG
<i>Amanita fulva</i>	Tawny Grisette		FV
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey Fungus		SG
<i>Bulgaria inquinans</i>	Black Bulgar		FV
<i>Calocera cornea</i>	Small Stagshorn	Fallen tree	KR
<i>Chondrostereum purpureum</i>	Silverleaf Fungus		SG
<i>Clavulina rugosa</i>	Wrinkled Club		FV
<i>Clitocybe fragrans</i>	Fragrant Funnel		SG
<i>Collybiopsis ramealis</i>	Twig Parachute		SG
<i>Cortinarius cf. Lacustris</i>	Lakeside Webcap	Goats Willow/Alder	FV
<i>Crepidotus cesatii</i>	Roundspored Oysterling		DG (micro)
<i>Crepidotus variabilis</i>	Variable Oysterling		DG (micro)
<i>Dacrymyces stillatus</i>	Jelly Spot		SW
<i>Exidia glandulosa</i>	Witches Butter		SG
<i>Exidia nucleata</i>	Crystal Brain		FV
<i>Exidia plana</i>	Warlock's Butter	Fallen log	SG
<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>	Hoof Fungus		DG
<i>Geastrum triplex</i>	Collared Earthstar	In grass	FV
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Cap		FV
<i>Inocybe cf. cincinnata</i>	Collared Fibrecap	Goat Willow	FV (micro)
<i>Kuehneromyces mutabilis</i>	Sheathed Woodtuft		FV
<i>Lactarius quietus</i>	Oakbug Milkcap	Under oak	FV
<i>Marasmius epiphyllus</i>	Leaf Parachute	Twig	SG (micro)
<i>Mycena cinerella</i>	Mealy Bonnet		SG
<i>Mycena filopes</i>	Iodine Bonnet		SG
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet	Log	SG
<i>Paxillus involutus</i>	Brown Rollrim		FV (micro)
<i>Phlebia tremellosa</i>	Jelly Rot		SG
<i>Phleogena faginea</i>	Fenugreek Stalkball		FV
<i>Plicaturopsis crispa</i>	Crimped Gill		FV
<i>Rhodocollybia butyracea</i>	Buttercap		DG
<i>Russula nigricans</i>	Blackening Brittlegill		FV
<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Ochre Brittlegill		FV
<i>Stereum gausapatum</i>	Bleeding Oak Crust	Fallen branch	SG
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail		FV
<i>Tubaria furfuracea</i>	Scurfy Twiglet		FV

Ascomycetes

<i>Ascocoryne cylichnium</i>	Budding Jellydisc		SG (micro)
<i>Ascocoryne sarcoides</i>	Purple Jellydisc		RT/ SG (micro)
<i>Bisporella citrina</i>	Lemon Disco		FV
<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	King Alfred's Cakes		SW
<i>Hypoxylon fuscum</i>	Hazel Woodwort		SG
<i>Nectria cinnabarina</i>	Coral Spot		RT
<i>Rhopoglyphus filicinus</i>	Bracken Map Fungus		FV
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	Candlesnuff		RT



Left: Bleeding Oak Crust, *Stereum gausapatum*. Picture by Francisco Verenciano.

Right: Candle Snuff, *Xylaria hypoxylon*. Picture by Francisco Verenciano.



Left: *Cortinarius* cf. *lacustris*. Picture by Francisco Verenciano.



Left: Purple Jellydisc, *Ascocoryne sarcoides*. Picture by Francisco Verenciano.

Right: Collared Earthstar, *Geastrum triplex*. Picture by Francisco Verenciano.



Left: *Inocybe* cf. *cincinnata*. Picture by Francisco Verenciano.

The Foray planned for **Hampton Wood Nature Reserve** on **Sunday 7 December** was cancelled as there were few fungi left to see.

Fungi of Sri Lanka

Francisco Verenciano*



Figure 1. Yellow stemmed micropore, *Microporus xanthopus*.

In November 2025 I travelled around Sri Lanka for almost four weeks. Initially, I was not planning on looking for fungi, to be in my partner's good books, but that plan quickly changed course. Before going, I had done some research and my only objective was to simply find one of the famous termite mushrooms, *Termitomyces* sp., comprising several edible species that are cultivated by termites in their nests (Hewage, 2015). Upon arrival, it took me four days of looking in termite mounds to find one. I managed to confidently identify it to species level and recorded it on iNaturalist (iNat). That was supposed to be me finished with fungi on the island for the holiday.



Figure 2. Termite mushroom, iNat ID 324474489. *Termitomyces* cf. *eurrhizus* (Flora of Sri Lanka, n.d.)

To my surprise, my termite mushroom record was the first iNat record for this particular species in Sri Lanka (iNaturalist, n.d.). I started wondering what could be the reason for that and I considered several possibilities.

First, maybe people were not using iNat. However, I found there were more than 250,000 records for plants, birds, mammals, insects, etc. on the site. Out of these, only 3,000 records were fungi and many only to genus level. Those figures are still low if you compare with England, which has 7,000,000 records in total for all the taxonomic kingdoms.

Second, same as for our Warwickshire Fungus Group (WFG) colleague Dave Champion, but to a lesser extent, I like to go the extra mile with fungus recording and I am not scared either of risky collection of specimens. Dangerous snakes live inside termite nests and I was warned not to get too close. That might be why people were not recording the termite mushrooms, although health and safety does not seem to be a big thing over there.

Third, maybe there are not enough resources easily available for people to properly focus and identify fungi. I struggled to find information online, with most of it apparently only kept in university libraries. I could not find any Sri Lankan mushrooms book in any book shop either. Figure 3 shows the only Sri Lankan fungus identification book that seems to be available. Neither could I find online fungus groups to join a foray, specialised tour guide or foraging courses.

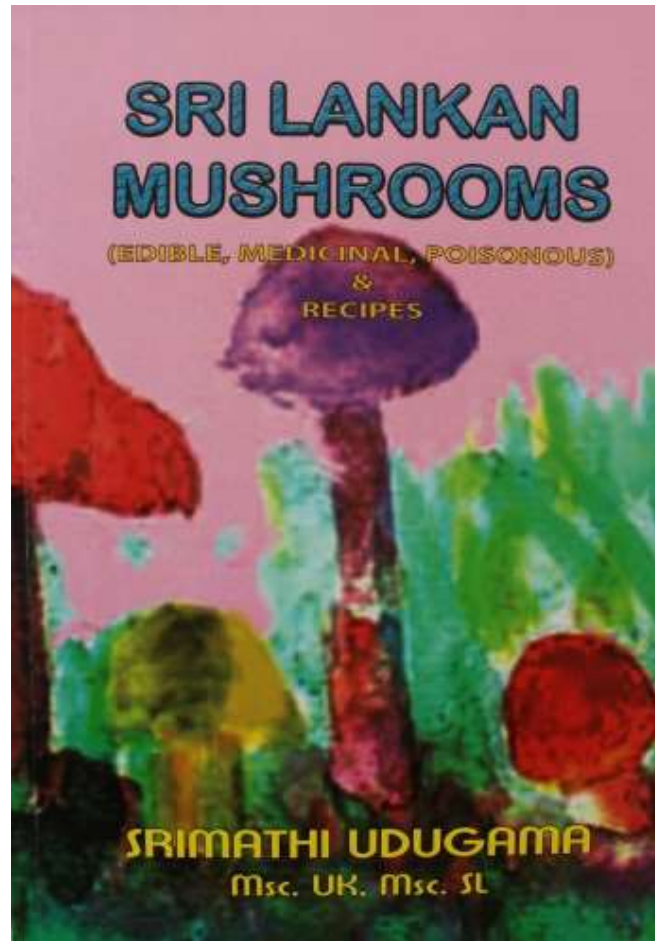


Figure 3. Sri Lankan mushrooms by Srimathi Udugama.

Fourth, perhaps the mushroom season in Sri Lanka was short, not allowing people to see them often and maybe only focussing on edibles. With research, I found that fungi over there normally tend to appear, either after a few months of dry conditions, or at the beginning of the rainy season. The country has two rainy seasons - one starting in April in the west, south, and central regions and another one starting in October in the north and east-. Some fungi are very short-lived fruiting and others last a bit longer, but all seem to appear in large numbers and people do forage for them for consumption. Foragers focus on picking aturu hatu (*Flammulaster fulvoalbus*) and split-gill (*Schizophyllum commune*) as the main edible mushrooms, along with giant oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus giganteus*), white shitake (*Lentinus squarrosulus*) (Fig. 4) and termite mushrooms (e.g. *Termitomyces microcarpus*, *Termitomyces eurrhizus* (Fig. 2), *Termitomyces heimii*, *Termitomyces srilankensis*, etc). There are many termite mushroom species that are very similar to each other and difficult to identify (Hewage, 2015).



Figure 4. White shitake, *Lentinus* cf. *squarrosulus*.

Fifth, my ID could have been wrong. There were only records of *Termitomyces microcarpus* in iNat in Sri Lanka. However, that species was clearly much smaller than my voucher, with the caps only reaching 2cm and barely having a root-like pseudorhiza. While on the other hand my specimen had caps of up to 10cm and a well-developed black pseudorhiza, making it very likely to be *T. eurrhizus* (Fig. 2). There are also other species of termite mushrooms in Sri Lanka but none recorded in iNat.

In conclusion, I would say that studying fungi in Sri Lanka seems to be quite difficult, with fungi very under recorded, under studied and with little resources/information available (Udugama, 2006). It was very difficult for me to identify the fungi I found to species level. So this might discourage many people looking into fungi for that reason, plus recording platforms are not being promoted either. People living in rural areas appear to focus on their daily lives, mainly working in tea-rice plantations and only have time to dedicate to fungi when foraging for food and just on very specific species. They probably do not have the means or desire for recording either.



Figure 5. Slippery jack, *Suillus luteus*.

So now I saw it as a personal quest to make a little contribution to Sri Lanka, by recording what I could, to encourage others to do the same for the *fungi kingdom*.

We travelled for four weeks around most of the country seeing many different habitats. From flooded rice fields, to lagoons and lakes, mountains with tea plantations, tropical forests, botanical gardens and finally coastal areas. The climate was very humid and in constant summer. Sri Lanka has monsoon seasons, frequent storms and a temperature of around 28 degrees centigrade all year around, only a bit cooler in the uplands.

I started by downloading a report called “Macro fungi from the Sigiriya wilderness in Sri Lanka”, comprising a fungi study in the central region. It contained just 49 species, many of which only determined to genus level. They were 10% ascomycetes, 39% polypores, 31% agarics and 8% jelly fungi (Ediriweera & al., 2014). After that, I also looked into the flora of Sri Lanka webpage, which contains some species of fungi but lacks good descriptions.



Figure 6. Honeycomb fungus, *Favolus* sp.



Figure 7. Fungi. Undetermined genus.



Figure 8. Polypore fungus. Undetermined genus. Likely *Trametes* sp.



Figure 9. Fairy inkcap, *Coprinellus* cf. *disseminatus*.



Figure 10. Gumtree deceiver, *Laccaria fraterna*.



Figure 11. Coral fungi, *Ramaria* sp.

By the end of the trip I had only recorded 31 fungi species, most of them from the central uplands region of the country and barely any from coastal areas. I could not find a single specimen of myxomycete to show to Dinah Griffin from WFG, nor did I find any grassland species for Di Napier from WFG. Many species were only possible to identify to genus level like Honeycomb fungus (*Favolus* sp.) (Fig. 6) or coral fungi (*Ramaria* sp.) (Fig. 11), and on some specimens (Figs. 7 and 8) I could not even determine the genus. Then some others I found looked very similar to UK species like slippery jack (*Suillus luteus*) (Fig. 5), fairy inkcap (*Coprinellus disseminatus*) (Fig. 9) and gumtree deceiver (*Laccaria fraterna*) (Fig. 10). Finally, there were also species typical of tropical-subtropical climates like yellow stemmed micropore (*Microporus xanthopus*) (Fig. 1) or white shitake (*Lentinus squarrosulus*) (Fig. 4).

My biggest disappointment of the trip was not being able to study a super-interesting yellow bolete that we saw during a jeep safari, lying just behind a peaceful water buffalo (Figs. 12 and 13). No matter how many times I explained to our guide that I needed that specimen, he would not let me fetch it. I am sure Dave Champion would have had no problem succeeding on that endeavour and that it would have been the best find of the trip.

Although fungi resources were extremely scarce, flora herbariums were everywhere (Figs. 14 and 15). John and Monika Walton and the Warwickshire Flora Group would have been very pleased.



Figure 12. Yellow bolete behind a water buffalo.

Figure 13. Likely a rare *Buchwaldoboletus* sp.

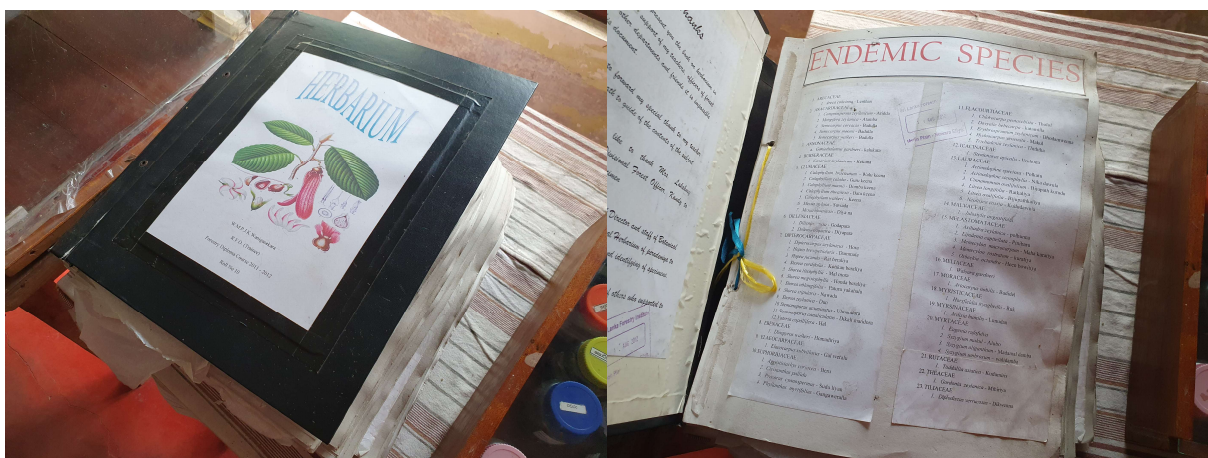


Figure 14. Herbarium folders in botanical gardens. Figure 15. Endemic flora species records.

Conclusion

Few studies have been conducted on the mushrooms of Sri Lanka. Most of them seem to be based on cultivation and on their edible/medicinal use. Historically, foraging for mushrooms for consumption looks to be a common occurrence in forest areas with rural communities. Srimathi Udugama's published book, *Sri Lankan mushrooms*, the one that I tried to obtain without success while in Sri Lanka, looks to be the only available one with a basic analysis on Sri Lankan mushrooms (Hewage, 2015). Upon return to England, I managed to order the book online from Sri Lanka and got it delivered to my home. Out of my 31 found fungi species, the book only contained four of them. There is therefore a great opportunity for anyone with the energy and the resources to get into the endeavour of properly studying Sri Lankan fungi. I am sure there are many interesting new species waiting to be found and described.

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