



Herefordshire Fungus Survey Group

News Sheet N° 8: Autumn 2004



Mitrophora semilibera (Lea & Paget's Wood – 14/4/04)

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President & Recorder: Ted Blackwell

Chair & Secretary: Sheila Spence

Treasurer: Ray Bray

[Welcome to the Spring 2004 News Sheet](#)

In this 8th issue of our News Sheet, we are trying out two changes (comments please!):

Firstly, we are leaving out the puzzle, as nobody really seems to do them and they just take up more space.

Secondly, Stephanie and Ray are co-operating to try to link in some specific fungi to the plant species being described – this time, some of the thistles and associated rusts. You will find the their two articles following one another on pages 9 to 11.

It is really good again to have a continuation of Heather's articles on lichens again and also Jo's on 'Small *Mycenas* et al' – although this time there are more 'et als' than previously. It goes without saying, of course, that the raison d'être of the whole News Sheet vanishes without our Recorder's Report and, once again, Ted has come up trumps – thank you.

We have a good range of photographers represented this time and this is also good news.

However, if there are others in the Group who are able/would like to contribute, please do let me know.

Happy reading!

Mike Stroud

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The BMS Group Leaders meeting held in June this year provided its usual mix of fungal interest and vexing questions. Not least, the subject of Public Liability Insurance was raised yet again. It was announced that the BMS would be able, from that weekend, to offer BMS Affiliated Groups free Public Liability Insurance. However, these groups would now have to pay for their previously, free affiliation a proposed sum of £25 per year. Groups requesting affiliation would have to pay this sum even if they did not require the insurance.

Whether or not the idea of paying £25 per year for affiliation appeals, for the moment it is still not available as an option. Unfortunately, shortly after the meeting the BMS was advised to take the scheme back to the Charity Commissioners for further checking. For this year, at least, HFSG are,

therefore, staying with the ABFG insurance scheme, which has served us well.

However, we need to think about our Group's affiliation to the BMS well before the AGM next spring, in order that we can make a decision as to our future stance. I will try to keep members up to date with further information as it becomes available, but one of the deciding factors may be that the new BMS affiliation will require us to have a Constitution, whether we like it or not. As yet we do not know if the Insurance scheme will provide cover outside official group activities and, if so, to what extent. There is still a lot of fine detail to consider - when it eventually becomes available.

Other matters of interest discussed over the weekend were reports from the

- Education Officer, (read by Liz Holden);
- Shelley Evans, the Conservation Officer;
- Derek Schafer, the Foray Secretary;
- Geoffrey Kibby, the Editor of Field Mycology;
- Paul Kirk, the Database Manager;
- and George Sharples, the BMS General Secretary who, with Tony Whalley, the BMS Treasurer, spoke about the Insurance issue.

There was also a very interesting talk by Martyn Ainsworth, who now works part-time for English Nature, giving an insight into his report on indicator species in Beech woods.

It was a very full weekend, ably organised by Liz Holden, very tiring (your Chairman trying to learn the complexities of working in Access on Paul Kirk's laptop at 1.30 am on Sunday morning!), but both informative and enjoyable. Further details of the meeting if you are interested, I believe, may be found on the BMS website, when they are available.

BMS Upland Foray 2005

Derek Schafer's foray report announced that the 2005 Upland Foray would be held in Herefordshire, from 16th - 22nd October 2005, based at the YHA in Leominster. This is great news for HFSG and it is hoped that many members will take the opportunity of joining the forays, whether as day-forayers or staying for all/part of the week. Further details will no doubt be published in the Mycologist in due course. Do remember that you do not need to be a BMS member to join BMS forays.

Herefordshire Festival of Fungi

Plans are well in hand for the Festival, to be held from 22nd - 30th October, 2005. The BMS have shown great enthusiasm for the event and much support is being given by several of the senior officers. The BMS Roadshow attends many of the major events around the Country, as they are keen

to take mycology to the people. We are delighted that they will be joining us for the Festival.

Fungus walks, displays, demonstrations and some children's activities are some of the events being planned around the County. The Festival will culminate in a grand exhibition, to be held over the weekend of the 29th/30th October, at the Gwynne Studios, Left Bank Village in Hereford.

HFSG display panels - out and about

The panels have been in use at three National Trust properties about the County, the first two being at The Weir Garden, followed by Croft Castle. Shelly & Mike helped George and myself at both these events, manning the stand and chatting to people. We had great fun and lots of interest at these 'Wild about Wildlife' Activity Days, put on by the National Trust.

Most recently we attended another similar weekend at Lower Brockhampton - just George and I this time - when we had lots of interest, not only from locals and holiday-makers from this Country, but also visitors from the Netherlands and as far away as Australia. Cherry popped in towards the end of the day - just too late to take our photos - sorry Cherry!



HFSG stand at The Weir garden (photograph by George Spence)

It has been a busy year, as far as I am concerned, and my thanks, of course, to all who help in any way - Ted for his expertise, record-keeping and producing all the lists; Ray for keeping the books in order and Mike for the newsletter. At the time of writing, I am looking forward to a full programme of forays during the Autumn and Winter and hope for a successful time for all in HFSG.

Sheila Spence

RECORDER'S REPORT MARCH - AUGUST 2004

Poors Acre, Haugh Wood (SO593365) 24th March 2004:

Two new VC36 records were *Cheilymenia pulcherrima* on a rabbit pellet, an orange-yellow cup fungus, and *Daldinia fissa* (= *D. vernicosa*) on broadleaved wood. This latter is often recorded on charred gorse or birch wood and is much smaller (about pea size) than the common *Daldinia concentrica*. It also has smaller spores.

Mollisia discolor var. *longispora*, *Nectria magnusiana*, *Phoma complanata*, and *Helminthosporium velutinum* have been recorded only once before. Also, there are only a few previous records of *Radulomyces molaris* (= *Cerocorticium molare*), *Ceratostomella* (= *Endoxila*) *cirrhosa*, *Rhizodiscina lignyota*, *Nectria sinopica* and *Cryptocoryneum condensatum*. A total of about 74 species identified.

Lea & Paget's Wood (SO5934) 1st April 2004.

Dry ground conditions limited the number of species recorded, but the list was not without interest.

Dumontinia (*Sclerotinia*) *tuberosa*, growing from a tuber-like sclerotium on the roots of Wood Anemone was of the record size of about 50 mm diameter, with perhaps an even longer stipe. This is a seldom recorded species in VC36, probably due to the difficulty of seeing it amongst fallen leaves, even when searched for.

First records for Herefordshire were of the fairly rare *Godronia ribis*, on dead branches of currant and also *Phialocephala fumosa*, on rotting Sweet Chestnut husks and their spines.

St. George's Mushrooms were absent on this occasion and there was only *Mitrophora semilibera* (front cover picture), to represent the Morels - which according to reports were cropping-up everywhere, it being 'a good Morel year'. A total of about 53 species identified.



Dumontinia tuberosa – Lea & Paget's (1/4/04)

Great Doward Reserves (SO 5415, SO 5416), 5th May 2004 - at White Rocks, King Arthur's Cave, Leeping Stocks, Lords Wood car park area.



Verpa conica – Doward (5/5/04)

Verpa conica ("Thimble Morel") was found in quantity, adding further confirmation that this is an exceptional year for "Morchelloids" (*Mitrula*, *Morchella*, and *Verpa*), which are reported from far and wide. Other cup-fungi found were *Helvella* (*Paxina*) *acetabulum* ("Vinegar Cup"), like a *Peziza* perched on a ribbed stalk, and *Tazzetta cupularis* ("Toothed Cup") a goblet-shaped cup with finely toothed margin.

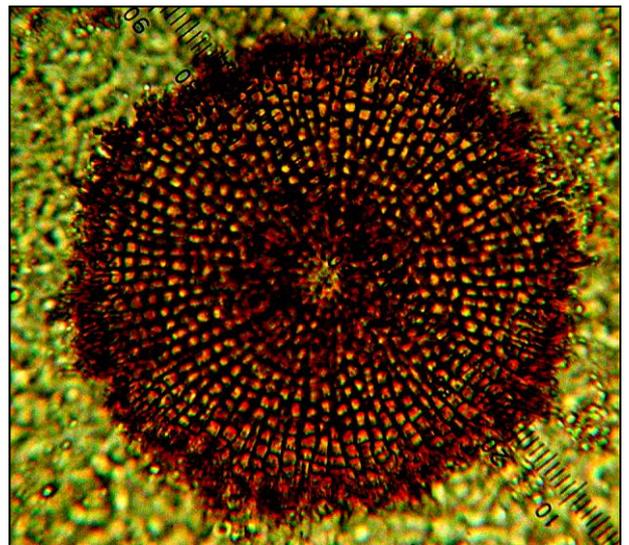
St. George's Mushroom *Calocybe gambosa* was also evident in large quantities in the White Rocks Reserve.

There were only three previous records of *Dichomitus campestris* (one appropriately at Lords Wood in 1996), and only a few records of *Gymnopilus sapineus* - perhaps a scaly-capped variant of *G. penetrans*. There were no previous records of *Hydropus subalpinus*.

Of the microfungi, *Melomastia mastoidea* and *Pyrenochaeta ilicis* had been recorded only twice before; *Microthyrium versicolor*, on dead bramble stems, although common, was the first Herefordshire record; it is interesting microscopically, like a circular shield of woven basket-work. The closely related *Microthyrium ciliatum* is commonly found on dead holly leaves.



Hydropus subalpinus – Doward (5/5/04)



Microthyrium ciliatum (microscope at x400) – Doward (5/5/04)

A tiny cup-fungus (named as "*Helotium versicolor*" in B&K1 No. 198), on the dead leaf-stalks of Hart's-Tongue Fern, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, was recorded.

Specimens from an earlier collection at Capler Hill were sent to Kew for an opinion on the correct name, which was given as *Pezizella chrysostigma* (see below under "Notes of Unusual Records").

Perhaps the most spectacular find was the rare rust *Ochropsora ariae* on *Anemone nemorosa*, for which only one previous record exists. It is unusual for a rust because the aeciospores are white, and was perhaps better described by its former synonym *Endophyllum leucospermum*. About 69 species identified.

Holywell Dingle (SO 3151) 19th May 2004.

There were not many previous records of *Pluteus leoninus*, listed as "rare" in the "Provisional Red Data List of British Fungi" published in 1992, but perhaps less rare today. Nor were there many previous records of *Hymenoscyphus imberbis*, *H. repandus*, *Epichloe typhina* ("Choke" in the vernacular), and *Calcarisporium arbuscula*, a mould parasitising other fungi. Only one previous record exists for *Septocyta ruborum*. A total of about 84 species identified.

Although four weeks after the Saint's Day, 23rd April, St. George's mushroom *Calocybe gambosa* nevertheless put in a limited appearance. It is probable that the Holywell ravine has a microclimate differing from the surrounding countryside with both higher temperature and humidity.

Queen's Wood, Dymock (SO 7628) 16th June 2004.

A not uncommon species typically of dead herbaceous stems, *Nectria arenula*, on a dead nettle stem, seems to have escaped previous recording. Distinctively, the spores have faint longitudinal striations. A total of about 73 species identified.

Hampton Court estate (SO 5152) 14th July 2004.

Leaf scorch on London Planes *Discula umbrinella* had not been recorded in VC36 since Woolhope Club times - perhaps because London Planes are uncommon in Herefordshire, except as ornamentals. The disease causes the living leaves to show brown, necrotic lesions, on which the teleomorph *Apiognomonium venata* develops later on fallen leaves.

Hemlock rust, *Puccinia conii*, had been recorded only twice before although the hemlock plant is described by Whitehead, Plants of Herefordshire, as 'frequent'. A total of about 86 species including lichens identified.

-O-O-O-O-O-

NOTES OF UNUSUAL RECORDS, March - August 2004

Interesting Herefordshire records, in addition to those from programmed forays, have been reported by members and others. Churchyard surveys for CFGA project have also discovered new or uncommon species. Inevitably, a number are of species which are seldom recorded or have not been recorded before in VC36, of which the following is a representative selection.

Gymnosporangium claviforme on *Juniperus communis*, 18/3/04 Vineyard Cottage. Cherry Greenway.

Pleurophragmium parvisporum, 22/3/04. High Vinnals area. Jo Weightman.

Gnomonia cerastus, 27/3/04, School Wood, Croft. Jo Weightman.

Fenestalla salicis, and *Dendryphion nanum*, 28/3/04, Mere Wood path SO 411640. Jo Weightman.

Pachyella violaceonigra, 8/3/04. Mallins Wood. Cherry Greenway (her photograph was published in Field Mycology April 2004).

Sphaeropsis visci on mistletoe, 29/3/04. Linley Green SO6953. Cherry Greenway.

Pezizella ("*Helotium*") *versicolor* (in B&K) on *Phyllitis scolopendrium* dead leaf-stalks, which Kew say is synonymous with *Pezizella chrysostigma*. 1/4/04. Capler Wood SO5832. Cherry Greenway. It has the intriguing character of the fresh whitish cups instantly changing colour if touched by a needle-tip - according to B&K to bright yellow, but in my experience to orange.

Gymnosporangium confusum on *Juniperus sabina* cv., 20/4/04. Upper Mosewick. Cherry Greenway.

Hydropus subalpinus, 5/5/04. White Rocks, Gt. Doward. Mike Stroud. Reported above, was confirmed by Dr. Roberts, Kew.

Taphrina wiesneri on *Prunus avium*; 27/5/04. Llangarron churchyard SO 51321. Confirmed at Kew. Ted Blackwell.

Postia placenta 6/04. Credenhill Park Wood. Sheila Spence.

Drepanopezia sphaerioides (anamorph), on *Salix alba* var. pendula leaf. 3/6/04. Westonbury Mill SO4156. Ted Blackwell.

Taphrina athyri on *Dryopteris felixmas*. 6/6/04. Orleton SO 4867. Ted Blackwell

Hericium cirrhatum on beech cut stump, *Phallus impudicus* var. *togatus*, and *Mycena diosma* (the last confirmed at Kew), 9/6/04. Bircher Coppice SO4567. John & Denise Bingham.



Hericium cirrhatum - Bircher Coppice (9/6/04).
Photograph by John Bingham



Phallus impudicus var. *togatus* - Bircher Coppice (9/6/04).
Photograph by John Bingham

Gymnosporangium confusum on *Crataegus monogyna*, 7/04. Several sites in Leominster area. Bert & Gill Brand.

Ramaria fennica var. *griseoilacina*, 9/8/04. Fishpool Valley. Jo Weightman, identified by Alick Henrici. According to Kew, apparently only the third British record.

Entoloma incana, 19/8/04. Oyster Hill SO 7241. Cherry Greenway.



Entoloma incana – Oyster Hill (19/8/04)
Photograph by Cherry Greenway

Geastrum berkeleyi, 18/8/04. Recurring on the same site as in previous years, Ray Bray.

Spathularia flava and *Leucocoprinus brebissonii*, 21/8/04. Wigmore Rolls, John and Denise Bingham.

Boletus impolitus and "*B. rhodopurpureus*" were reported from Kinnersley (SO 3547) on 26/8/04 by John & Denise Bingham, "dozens of specimens, some up to 20cm across". This site was revisited in early September by Dave Champion and Cherry Greenway, who were similarly impressed by the number and variety of Boletes, including *B. pseudoregius*. However, when e-mailed details and image of "*Boletus rhodopurpureus*" were referred to Alan Hills, he considered it more likely to be *B. satanoides*. As no actual specimen was examined by a specialist, sadly its true identity remains in doubt.

Podostroma alutaceum & *Pseudocraterellus sinusosus*, 29/8/04. Fishpool Valley. John & Denise Bingham.

Boletus satanas, late August. Great Doward, Cherry Greenway and Heather Colls; also *Calocybe ionides*, Cherry Greenway.

Geastrum fimbriatum, and reports of "wonderful Chanterelles", 28/8/04. Credenhill Park Wood, Sheila and George Spence.

Boletus aereus, Croft Castle oak avenue, and *Strobilomyces floccopus*, Fishpool Valley, 29/8/04, Dave Champion.



Boletus aereus - Croft Castle (29/8/04)
 Photograph by Dave Champion

The range of species recorded from Herefordshire continues to increase month by month, thanks to all collectors and recorders who have contributed lists and the results of home-work, and with additional thanks to Heather Colls for lichen records.

Ted Blackwell, Recorder.

FUNGAL FRAGMENTS

Antrodia is an anagram of *Datronia*. *Theodgonia* (Hyphomycetes) is based on an anagram by B G Sutton of Deighton who first described it. Dr. Deighton was a mycologist at IMI for many years and an expert on *Cercospora*.

The following is an extract from the BMS Librarian's "Abstracts from Journals Received Jan-March 2004" which I wondered if might be suitable for your F.F.s

"The bright yellow *Fuligo septica* and *Enteridium lycoperdon* can grow to a very large size, these two species are grilled and eaten by certain ethnic groups in Vera Cruz which call the former 'moon dung'."

Ted Blackwell

OCCASIONAL PORTRAITS – John Roberts & Dave Champion

I am indebted to the famous French society photographer Cerise, la Contesse de Chemin-vert, for these photographs she sent me just before departing on her current assignment – to photograph elephants on the Tierra del Fuego, over the next fifty years.

These pictures show how seriously members of HFSG take safety – in particular, in protecting themselves from noxious spores. Note the two very different approaches taken:

John favours protective clothing and tells me that these dangerous spores always target the eyes.

Champ, on the other hand is seen here using the new state-of-the-art equipment he has built, which relies on generating a powerful electromagnetic field to disintegrate the spores.



AN INTRODUCTION TO LICHENS: 4. THE ALGAE IN LICHENS

This time I am going to write a few words about the algal species involved in lichens. Every lichen consists of an alga and a fungus but whilst each lichen contains a different fungus, there are relatively few algae involved. A number of these can be found as free living species, in contrast to the fungal partner which on its own at the very most achieves a formless tangle of hyphae. The form of the free-living alga does however differ very markedly from when it is incorporated in a lichen.

Both green algae and blue-green algae (more correctly termed cyanobacteria) are employed in lichen formation, although only 20 or so genera of green algae and less than this of cyanobacteria species are involved. Of the green algae, *Trebouxia* is much the commonest alga - being found in over half our British lichen species - but does not often occur in the free-living state. However, the orange-pigmented green alga, *Trentepohlia*, runs a close second, being the alga involved in about a third of our lichen species.



Trentepohlia aurea

Trentepohlia is a green filamentous alga, containing carotenoid pigments that make it appear orange. It can frequently be found brightening our Herefordshire woodlands in winter, where it covers the trunks of the trees with its attractive chestnut brown colour: under the lens it appears as minute fluffy orange balls. It is the algal constituent of the common "Scribbled Writing Lichen" of twigs and tree trunks, *Graphis scripta*.



Graphis scripta

Nostoc is the commonest of the blue-green algae, occurring in about 5% of our lichen species. It occurs on wet ground as a brown jelly-like sheet, making the surface extremely slippery. It is the algal constituent of our "Jelly Lichens", the *Collema*s, which grow on soil, rocks and amongst mosses.



Nostoc (above); *Collema tenax* (below)

Heather Colls

KNOW YOUR HOST PLANTS: 3. Creeping, Spear and Marsh Thistles

Although the three commonest thistles may not be man's best friends, in spite of their armament of spines they are certainly beloved by a wide range of insects and are essential components of our countryside. Most species which are dependent on thistles are herbivores and most are restricted to particular microhabitats on the plant.

Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

Creeping Thistle is definitely not the farmer's friend, as it rampages along with gay abandon through field and hedgerow, woodland and waste land. It is a perennial plant and most reproduction is vegetative, although seed is viable and can blow off to colonise new areas.

Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)

"The Speare Thistle hath an upright stalke garnished with a skinnie membrane, full of most sharpe prickles: whereon do grow very long leaves divided into divers parts, with sharpe prickles: the point of the leaves are as the point of a speare: where of it tooke its name." This was Gerard's contribution to the botanical literature of the time.

The spiny stems may be 1 - 5 feet high, bearing large spinv leaves and one to a few pink/purple flowers over an inch in diameter and one to two inches high. There seems some doubt as to whether **Scotch Thistle**, *Onopordon acanthium*, or *Cirsium vulgare* should be regarded as the true Scotch Thistle; the former is in fact very rare in Scotland, so it seems more likely that the thistle emblem of Scotland, adopted as a personal badge by the Stewart kings, would be the one they saw every day, the Spear Thistle. This is a biennial plant and reproduction is by seed.

Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*)

This is another biennial, widespread in grassy places and woods and often in wet ground. It is often taller than the preceding species, with spiny stems and leaves, the spines on the leaves often having purple tips. The numerous flower heads are a dark reddish-purple. This plant may easily be confused with the **Wetted Thistle**, but the latter has thistledown with non-feathery hairs and the bracts below the flower head are half spreading, rather than adpressed.

Stephanie Thomson
Photographs by Peter Thomson



Cirsium arvense



Cirsium vulgare

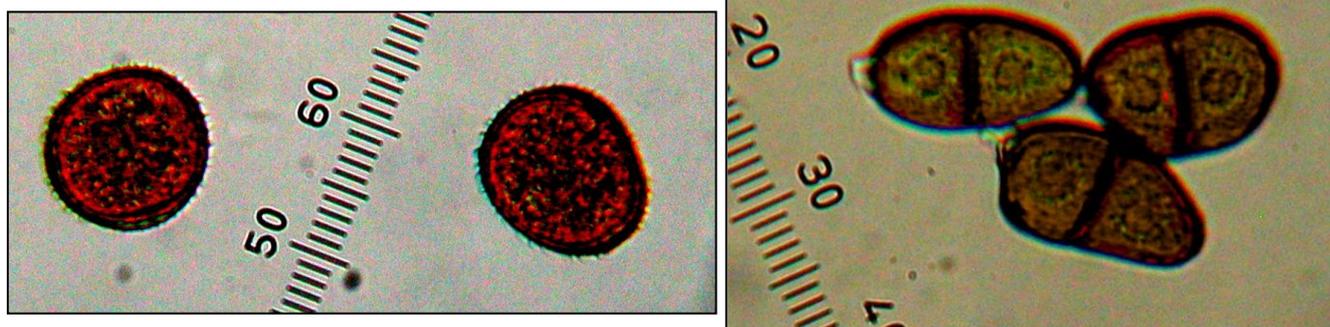


Cirsium palustre

MICROFUNGI ON COMMON THISTLES

Well over a century ago Mordecai Cubitt Cooke in his **Microscopic Fungi** observed, "It is not a very desirable occupation to search a bed of nettles and turn over the individual leaves to look for minute fungi". Nor do thistles offer a welcome embrace to the enquiring mycologist, but with appropriate defences: a stout stick, at least one glove and legs well covered, an examination of thistles can be rewarding.

Elsewhere in this News Sheet Stephanie Thomson has described three of our most common thistles: the creeping (*Cirsium arvense*), spear (*C. vulgare*) and marsh (*C. palustre*). I will attempt to indicate what microfungi might be found on them, while stressing at the outset that my own experience has been limited to Rusts (Uredinales) and one Powdery Mildew (Erysiphales).



Puccinia punctiformis on *Cirsium arvense* (microscope at x 400) – left showing urediniospores; right showing teliospores

Rusts

Four rusts may be encountered on our three thistles. Descriptions are given in Ellis & Ellis (1997) and in greater detail in Wilson & Henderson (1966). Briefly:

Puccinia punctiformis

This is confined to creeping thistle and is common. Its most obvious manifestation is as spermagonia (Rust stage 0) from the end of April on. They are bright honey-yellow, sweet smelling and cover much of lower leaf surfaces. Plants are pale-green, spindly and never flower. In May aecia (stage I) develop and infect other creeping thistles which, from June onwards, develop uredinia (stage II) and telia (stage III). These plants, the second generation as it were, appear not to suffer to any great extent and in time produce lilac-/mauve- coloured flowers with a sweet smell redolent of the spermagonia, or so it seems to me.

Puccinia cnici

All four stages of this rust (0, I, II and III) have been recorded on spear thistle - it also infects woolly thistle (*Cirsium eriophorum*), not considered in these articles). Although not as common as *P. punctiformis*, it is frequent and no doubt under-recorded because of its host's defences.

Puccinia calcitrapae

This rust has been recorded on a number of plants including several species of thistles, among them the marsh thistle. It appears on the latter as uredinia

(stage II) from March onwards and telia (stage III) from June to November. It would seem from Wilson & Henderson (1966) that aecia had not then been found in Britain, although Henderson (2000) suggests that they have been recorded since then.

Puccinia cnici-oleracei

I came across the three rusts named above within days of beginning to look for them in July 2004. As I write, at the end of July, I have yet to find this fourth rust. Perhaps not surprising for it is scarce (last recorded in VC36 in 1926) and is known only as telia (stage III), which suggests a late season appearance. Look for it on either leaf surface of marsh thistle, minute on pale yellow spots, circinate, dark brown, long covered by the epidermis.

Powdery Mildews

I found only one powdery mildew in July on our thistle group and that as an anamorph (ie. no cleistothecia), which I failed to identify. It was on spear thistle and could have been *Erysiphe cichoracearum* or *E. mayorii* var. *mayorii* both of which infect all three thistles according to Ing (1990-1991) and Braun (1995). Ellis & Ellis (1997) does not mention the latter species.

Other Fungi

On leaves

In Ellis & Ellis (1997) the only other mention of fungi on our three thistles is of the so-called "white blister" *Albugo tragopogonis*, more commonly found on groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), and of the "leaf spot"

anamorphic *Ramularia cirsii*, both on creeping thistle.

On dead stems

According to the same authority these offer much more scope. No fewer than ten ascomycetes are to be found on creeping thistle but, perhaps surprisingly, only two on marsh and one on spear. Rich pickings for the ascomycetologist, but watch those fingers!

Ellis & Ellis also mention three Coelomycetes on creeping thistle, and one each on marsh and spear.

Ray Bray

SMALL MYCENAS ET AL: 3. More of the AI than the *Mycenas*

Marasmius hudsonii

This is a species high on my wanted list and you can see why. *Marasmius hudsonii* is a diminutive

(cap 1-6mm) pale cream to reddish-brown agaric occurring exclusively on holly leaves and readily identified by its terrified hair-do and equally hairy stipe.

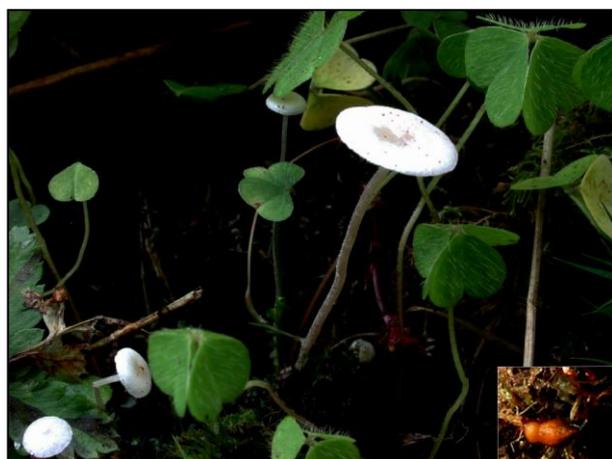
Like many *Marasmius* species, the stem is reddish-brown below and pale above. All you need to find it is very sharp eyes and the courage to take on the pricks and stabs of outrageous prickles. I have still to find my own, although I have spent much time and many oaths under holly bushes.



Collybia cookei

One of three *Collybias* which all look the same in the field - generally uniformly white, although there may be a darker cap center, or pale orange colours in the stipe.

The gills are adnate and the cap usually less than a centimetre across. They all tend to grow on the remains of the previous year's fungi. The species photographed here is attached by threads to conspicuous, yellowish sclerotia (see inset), while *C. tuberosa* has dark brown sclerotia and *C. cirrhata* has none. These sclerotia are hard and about the size of apple pips.



References:

- Braun, Uwe (1995), *The Powdery Mildews of Europe*, Gustav Fischer
Ellis, M.B. & Ellis, J.P. (1997), *Microfungi on Land Plants*, Richmond Publishing Co. Ltd.
Henderson, D.M. (2000), *A Checklist of the Rust Fungi of the British Isles*, BMS
Ing, B. (1990-91), *An Introduction to British Powdery Mildews*, Mycologist 4 & 5
Wilson, M. & Henderson D.M. (1966), *British Rust Fungi*, CUP

Rickenella fibula

This is the commonest of the species mentioned this time and one that is not easily confused with anything else. Look for it in dampish moss especially on acid soils both in grassland and in open woodland and heath. When fresh cap and stipe are carrot in colour, but both wash out to near white and look almost transparent. The deeply decurrent gills are a clinching factor in identification. When white, confusion is possible with *Rickenella swartzii*, but this species always has a violaceous disk to the cap and at the stipe apex. *Mycena mairei* is also white with decurrent gills, growing in grass, but it lacks the rather elongated cap of *R. fibula* and, moreover, smells mealy.



Mycena acicula

Small but beautiful. Another orange-capped species, but this one retains its vivid tones. Growing on woody or herbaceous debris, often in rather damp shaded places, its fiery colours catch the eye despite its small stature. While the cap may reach 1cm across, it is commonly much, much smaller. The cap is more or less flame-coloured, fading to yellow at the edge, while the stipe and gills are yellow. The photo illustrates the pruinose character of the stipe. Not uncommon once you have got your eye in.

Jo Weightman



Mycrossword answers (from Spring 2004):

Across: 1 leave 7 umbrosus 8 monet 10 rust
11 aroma 13 arrhenia 15 apse 17 rite
18 gastrum 21 genus 22 drum 24 solve
25 stipends 26 odora

Down: 1 lamina 2 veer 3 smut 4 bread
5 ascospore 6 ustale 9 tuber 12 pratensis
14 ice 16 ascus