



Herefordshire Fungus Survey
Group

News Sheet N° 3: Spring 2002



Cyathus striatus (Holme Lacy - 3/10/01)

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HFSG News Sheet

It has been decided to try to publish this twice per year - at least for the present time. Mike Stroud has agreed to co-ordinate this and so, if you have any contributions, complaints, or (constructive!) suggestions, please feel free to contact him.
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Foray lists

It was suggested that foray lists could be sent electronically to those on e-mail. If you prefer not to receive lists for forays you haven't attended, please let Ted know - otherwise it's likely a list after each foray will go out to all those on e-mail.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Ted relinquishes his chair and changes hats

At our recent AGM, Ted Blackwell explained that, having completed the three years as Chairman he offered at the inaugural meeting of the HFSG in April 1999, he now wished to step down. Ted was promptly elected as our 'President for Life' and will remain as the Group's Recorder.

The Meeting then voted unanimously for Sheila Spence to take over as Chairman and Ray Bray as Treasurer. Sheila has also agreed to continue as Secretary.

Ray Bray then gave thanks to Ted, with apologies to Beryl as it was their 54th Wedding Anniversary today.

He went on to pay tribute to Ted for his labours on behalf of the Group, starting with the first tentative forays of 1998 and affiliation to the British Mycological Society later that year. After a little chivvy from Sheila, a foray at Queenswood Arboretum was held, followed by an inaugural meeting of the HFSG.

That HFSG is now the third highest in the league of Counties for the number of records on the national database is mostly due to Ted's efforts. Ted's own personal records of over 4,000 are also in the top 10 of BMS records.

Highlights of the last three years have been a fungal display at the Woolhope Club anniversary, a foray at Holme Lacy, where the first ever Woolhope Club foray was held, and taking part in a research project looking at the distribution of heavy metals in fungi.

Of course, in addition, we all thank Ted for the very interesting forays he has led around the County. At the inaugural meeting Ted said that he hoped mycology in Herefordshire would be put back on the map: it now really has been.

Ray then presented Ted with David Boertmann's book, 'The Genus Hygrocybe', duly signed by all present - which luckily he did not already own!

CHAIRMAN'S (including RECORDER'S) REPORT, AGM 2002.

Although programmes were everywhere disrupted nationwide due to FMD, this Group was obliged to cancel only two forays set for March and April. By dint of resourceful re-arrangement of the programme and the very helpful co-operation of a number of site-managers we were able to set a programme going, which over the year amounted to thirteen forays.

The first to be launched was at Brockhampton Wood on 9th May. A second May foray followed at Dinmore Hill, thereafter forays followed regularly, initially to a modified programme, at Haugh Wood in June and July, Queen's Wood, Dymock in August, and Bromyard Downs and Frith Wood in September.

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There were three forays in October, at Green Drive Wood (Holme Lacy college estate), Park Wood, Hergest, and Kinsham Court and Gorge, and two in November, at Haffield and Fishpool valley, rounding off with Lea & Pagets Wood in December.

Thanks to everyone who contributed by arranging forays, and to those who did 'home-work' on identifications.

Notable highlights from the forays were as follows:

Brockhampton Wood, 9th May:

The Veined Cup-fungi *Disciotis venosa* was found in the car park, which I heard described appropriately as rather like burnt pancakes. Although early, five agarics (plus some undetermined) were found, and several "things on leaves" such as rusts (especially on ferns), and a smut on lesser celandine. Slime Moulds included *Enteridium (Reticularia) lycoperdon* the "Bark Puffball", and *Metatrachia (Trichia) floriformis*, which 70 years ago was regarded almost as a rarity but has since become common. Among the Ascomycetes, *Scutellinia setosa* was found.

Dinmore Hill & Queenswood Arboretum, 23rd May:

A mould growing on a dead fly was *Entomophthora* but not *E. muscae* and the species remained undetermined.



Entomophthora sp. - Queenswood Arboretum (23/5/01)

Another mould on the Myxomycete *Metatrachia floriformis* was *Verticillium rexianum*. The few agarics that were found included St. George's, and *Entoloma conferendum*.

Among the Ascomycetes, *Peziza arvernensis*, *Scutellinia* sp. and *Cudoniella clavus*. A strange Pyrenomycete looking like a "mini-Candlesnuff" was *Peroneutypa heteracantha* which apparently occurs on a wide range of trees; this is only the second record for the county, the first record was at Humber Marsh in March 1996.

Haugh Wood, 13th June & 11th July: The lists included *Chlorociboria aeruginascens*, *Scutellinia* sp., and several Myxomycetes.

Queens Wood, Dymock 22nd August:

There was the rare find of *Uloporus lividus*. Prof. Watling says "Habitat in alder carrs with *Alnus glutinosa*, often hidden by grass. Infrequently collected because of habitat, but may be generally distributed although rare".

There are only three previous Herefordshire records - at The Flits in 1994, Mallins Wood in 1996, and Mary Knoll Valley in 1998.

Stilbella byssiseda (= *Blistum orbiculare*) was a quite spectacular looking mould on an old Myxomycete.



Stilbella byssiseda - Queens Wood, Dymock (22/8/01)

It is white and has drumstick-like projections (Synnemata). Other finds included *Hymenoscyphus fructigenus* on a hazel nut, and the *Peziza succosa*, which exudes yellow juice when bruised or cut.

Bromyard Downs, 5th September:

Boletales came to the fore with *Aureoboletus cramesinus*, *Leccinum auranticacum*, and *Leccinum roseofractum*. There were only two previous Herefordshire records of *Helminthosphaeria clavariarum*, which parasitises *Clavulina cinerea* and *C. cristata*. Although common on rabbit-dung, there was only one previous record of *Pilaira anomala*, but *Sordaria alcina* had not been recorded before in Herefordshire.

Frith Wood, 19th September:

Phaeohelotium monticola seems to be the first record for Herefordshire, although not considered a rare species. However, *Limacella vinosorubescens* found by Cherry Greenway is definitely a rare species - only one other Herefordshire record exists, from Barnett Wood in 1999. It has more usually been found in Southern England on the Chalk, and significantly both Frith Wood and Barnett Wood are on limestone.

Although not uncommon, *Calocybe carnea* had been recorded only three times before in Herefordshire, in 1902, somewhere in Herefordshire (no grid reference), in 1951 at Moccas Park, and in 1994 at Orleton. *Steccherinum ochraceum* only occurs in the records from Woolhope Club days, circa 1880s, not regarded as rare, probably overlooked or discarded unidentified. The foray produced the excellent find of three Earth Stars, *Geastrum striatum*, in pristine condition, amongst conifer needle litter.

Green Drive Wood (Holme Lacy College estate), 3rd October:

There were few mycorrhizal fungi, most species being either on dead wood, litter or living leaves.



Agaricus augustus - Holme Lacy College (3/10/01)

The initial find was *Agaricus augustus*, "The Prince", under Wellingtonia, eaten by Tim Baxter (I see it concentrates cadmium). Not very commonly seen was *Ischnoderma benzoinum* on conifer and there are a few Herefordshire records of *Orbilbia cyathea*. It was pleasing, especially to our host, to see *Cyathus striatus* (front cover photo).

Park Wood, Hergest, 10th October :

This site was the provenance of a small all-white *Amanita* found by Bryan Lack, which so far even Kew have failed to identify, somewhere near *A. virosa*, *A. phalloides* v. *alba* - or perhaps new to science!

There is only one previous record of *Stemonitis lignicola*, this was in 1999 at White Rocks, and of the local lists only the Warwickshire Fungus Flora mentions one record in 1974. The only one previous record of *Entoloma lividocyanula* on the database was from Lea & Pagets reserve in 1974. *Phaeolus schweinitzii* has been recorded only a few times. When this bracket is found one should also look for the bolete, *Pulveroboletus lignicola* (B&K3, No.41) - known to grow in association with it, but not found on this occasion.



Phaeolus schweinitzii - Park Wood, Hergest (10/10/01)

The dusky *Clavaria fumosa* on the lawn in front of Ridgebourne also seems to be rather rare (B&K2, No. 443), and there are only two other records on the database.



Clavaria fumosa - Ridgebourne, Hergest (10/10/01)

Kinsham Gorge & Kinsham Court, 24th October:

Hygrocybe calyptriformis from the lawn. Neither *Hygrocybe aurantiosplendens*, nor *Inocybe sindonia* have been recorded before on the Herefordshire database. The site also yielded some less-usual finds such as *Ganoderma applanatum* s. str., *Tremella foliacea*, *Oxyporus populinus*, *Dasyscyphus apalus* and *Calyptella capula*. A representative selection of lichens was recorded by Heather Colls.

Haffield, 7th November:

A smallish white agaric whose identity defeated several of us had the striking features of pink gills and deeply sulcate (parachute- or Chanterelle-like) cap, which although unlike anything familiar was so endowed with character that we all felt it should be easy to identify: however, it was not so. As it was clearly something unusual, it was eventually sent to Kew where Dr. Roberts determined it as *Clitocybe houghtonii*. The only other Herefordshire record of it dates from Woolhope Club times (1880s), and as the Rev. William Houghton was a member of the Woolhope Club, that no doubt explains how Berkely and Broome came to name it in his honour. Significantly, their first name for it was "*Cantharellus houghtonii*".

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Geoglossum fallax - Haffield (7/11/01)

In addition to the recurrence of *Geoglossum fallax*, another Earth-tongue was found, *Geoglossum nigrum*, of which there is only one previous Herefordshire record, by Douglas Graddon in 1951 unlocalised as "Herefordshire". Also there is only one previous record of *Leucocoprinus brebissonii* - from Fishpool Valley, Croft, last year.

Fishpool Valley (Croft), 21st November:

Out of the 106 species identified there were *Amanita pantherina* and *Helminthosphaeria clavariarum*, a black mould which attacks *Clavulina cristata*; its conidia are smoky-brown and variable-to-dumbbell-shaped. The Wood Puffball,



Lycoperdon pyriforme - Fishpool Valley, Croft (21/11/01)

Lycoperdon pyriforme was discovered growing on a *Dryopteris* fern, an unusual substrate.

Lea & Paget's Wood, 5th December:

Amongst the 106 species recorded were over 40 Agarics and Russulales with several mycorrhizal fungi and a representative selection of waxcaps from the woodland, without any apparent grassland association. In addition, there were several collections of *Helvella crispa*, and of Myxomycetes. There are not many records of "Jupiter's Beard" *Hyphodontia barba-jovis* on the database, the most recent by Ray Bray in 1998 at Mains Wood.

There is only one previous record of *Calcarisporium arbuscula* which grows over (parasitically?) the stroma of Sphaeriales, last recorded at Fishpool Valley 1999 on *Xylaria polymorpha*. Two Hyphomycetes, *Cladosporium britannicum* and *Endophraggiella corticola* are new records to the database, but not particularly rare.

Thanks are due to Heather Colls for Lichen identifications on several forays.

Apart from Group-organised forays, both members and non-members contribute additional records. From amongst those notified in the past year, I can report a few interesting finds:

John Bingham: *Hohenbuehelia geogenia*, Wigmore Rolls, Oct 2000 - first Herefordshire record;
Cortinarius brunneus & *C. paleaceus*, Pedwardine Wood, Nov 2000 - first Herefordshire records;
Rozites caperatus, Pedwardine Wood, Sept 01 - only the 2nd Herefordshire record.

Ray Bray: *Milesina carpatorum*, confirmed by Dr Henderson himself (author of British Rust Fungi) as a very rare rust on Male Fern *Dryopteris felix-mas* at Durlow Common, Feb. 2001.

Shelley Evans: *Piptoporus quercinus*, Moccas Park on trees nos.147 and 174, July/Aug 01.

Jo Weightman: *Strobilomyces floccopus* Haye Park Wood, late July 01;
Ramicola (Simocybe) laevigata, Moccas Park, Oct 01, the third UK record and first for the County. late July 01,

Ted Blackwell: *Russula solaris* (Fishpool Valley), during a South Staffs Naturalists' Society foray Sept 01; also found here in 1999 by Jo Weightman, the only other record was in 1951 at Moccas.

Jean Wynne-Jones: *Hericium erinacium*, on a felled beech log, at the Whitfield estate, Oct 01. Only one other Herefordshire record, from Woolhope Club times (1880s) by W.G.Smith at the long-disappeared Haywood Forest, a site only about 4 miles from this second find.

Moving to other newsworthy occasions and items:

- A very successful innovation last season was the Christmas lunch which followed the Lea & Pagets foray on 5th December; for which thanks are due to Sheila for making the arrangements.

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- We congratulate our members Sheila & George Spence on their marriage on 7 July 2001.
- The Group's affiliation to BMS was renewed in November 2001.
- A further microscopes' workshop was held at the Woolhope Parish Hall on 7th March 2002.

Herefordshire Biological Records Centre

A manager, Margaret Cole, has been appointed by Herefordshire Council, and is currently based with the Council's Conservation Section in the Town Hall Annexe. The Centre is not yet ready to receive fungus records, but I am actively pursuing the issue.

Herefordshire records to BMS Foray Record Database.

BMSFRD has received 5500 records since the last AGM. About a thousand subsequent records both from Group and personal forays are on file towards the next batch to be sent.

Other records in preparation include about 3215 lichen records of Dr. Francis Rose, kindly made available to me by Stephanie Thomson.

About 1860 plant disease fungus records are being transcribed from old MAFF Plant Pathology Laboratory work books, by an co-operative arrangement with Dr. Tom Preece (Chairman, Shropshire F.G.) who has kindly loaned the books.

An estimated 1-2 thousand hard-copy Kew records are in the process of transcription. Many of these were made by Douglas Graddon who lived at Ross-on-Wye and who worked mainly in south Herefordshire; these are predominantly Discomycetes.

A high proportion of the above records are without grid references, many barely legible, and in some cases, names of fungi, hosts, places, or people have been garbled or are incomplete. The 'cleaning-up' of such 'dirty' records before use in a Herefordshire database or despatch to BMSFRD is inevitably a slow process, and until complete, will continue to impede progress towards a Herefordshire Checklist.

Important Fungus Areas

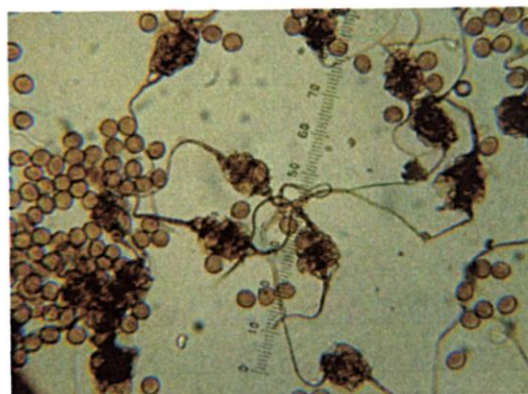
Under a Project organised jointly by *Plantlife*, the BMS, and the Association of British Fungus Groups, a census of "Important Fungus Areas" (IFAs) was carried out. Recorders were invited to send details of sites which from local knowledge they regarded as important together with justifying data. It is hoped that the Project Report will not only provide vital conservation information nationwide but may also assist in increasing the protection of IFAs.

As a result, fifteen Herefordshire sites have been listed as IFAs, either as having significant populations of rare fungi; an exceptionally rich mycota; an outstanding mycological habitat; or considered important but for which more information is needed.

My thanks to Group members for their continued support and for their contribution of records, and especially to those who have found new sites and organised the permissions, and to Sheila for another year's excellent work as Secretary/Treasurer.

Ted Blackwell

PASS THE PARCEL!



Brefeldia maxima (microscope at x400)

Slime moulds are not to everyone's taste - the very name is somewhat off-putting. However, four of us responded to Ted's kind offer last December to make available part of his myxomycete herbarium for circulation among interested members of the Group. Generously provided by Ted with an early Key by Bruce Ing (to supplement our own copies of his latest identification hand book) and with most useful material from M.C. Clark's "Warwickshire Myxomycetes", we eagerly awaited our monthly supply of eight matchboxes filled with myxo goodies.

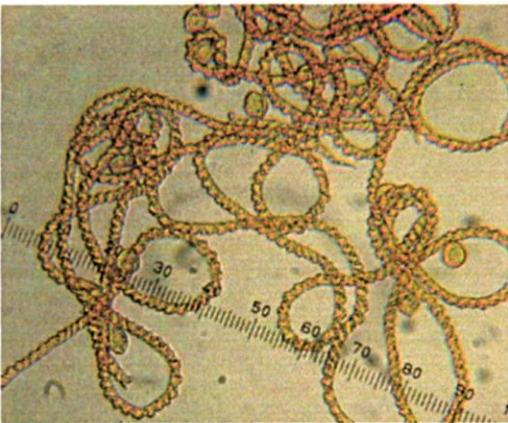
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Chaos could have reigned here but no, Ted had prepared the ground well. At the end of each month the boxes went around, Shelly to Bryan, he to Mary, Mary to me and from me to Shelly until, at the end of March all (hopefully) safely back to Ted, protected throughout from the hazards of *Consignia* by an assortment of eggboxes, margarine tubs, bubblewrap and cotton wool.

Needless to say our postpersons were not having to handle the "creeping mass of protoplasm" stage of these delightful organisms. They were bringing to us examples of the sporangia or fruiting bodies into which the protoplasm is metamorphosed. Many and varied were these forms: the miniscule black drumsticks of *Comatricha nigra*, the brilliant crimson fluffy mass of *Arcyria denudata*, yellow *Trichias*, nodding *Physarum nutans*, to name but a few. Adventures with the microscope too, and words not all that familiar before like columella, capillitium, elaters, that we now let slip whenever we think we can get away with it.



Trichia varia



Trichia varia (microscope at x 400)

All in all a fascinating three months' insight into this miniature wonderland. Thank you TED!

Ray Bray

MICROSCOPES' WORKSHOP (7th March)



The group at work (left to right): Heather, Shelly, George, Sheila, Bryan, Mary



The Guru explains!