

Trooper's Hill Fungus Foray: Sunday 4th November 2012

17 people attended the annual fungus foray held at Trooper's Hill. We have had a very wet and mostly cool summer, conditions that are not typically conducive to fungus fruiting; most species appear to prefer an initial stimulus temperature of around 23°C coupled with thunderstorm conditions producing warm and humid weather. We therefore concentrated this year on foraying in the more open grassland and heath areas of the site as woodlands have previously shown poor productivity for fungus fruiting.

In all, 27 species of fungi were recorded, including 10 Waxcap species (*Hygrocybe*), indicators of good quality grassland for nature conservation.

The CHEG score (*Clavaria*, *Hygrocybe*, *Entoloma*, *Geoglossum*) was 14 for this year, similar to previous years, indicating moderate quality for a single visit (Each species recorded in the four genera is given a score of one, with total species then giving the overall score for the site: for further information, see previous reports).

Most interestingly, a small, conical, greyish *Mycena* turned up again this year, as last year. This species has an elastic, separable gill edge, elastic pellicle and medium sized spores, keying out as *Mycena agrestis* with Funga Nordica, and has been sent to a specialist in Norway as this species is not known to be British!

Management Suggestions:

- As in previous reports:
1. Create brash piles in woodland
 2. Leave as much dead wood in situ, as possible
 3. Cut main meadow area annually, to a sward height of <10cm where possible to ensure soil warming in the summer and hence enhance fruiting; preferably in late July-early September
 4. Clear bramble and other coarse scrub from around good mycorrhizal trees (oak, birch) to <10cm sward height to enhance fruiting
 5. Create 30 x 30 metre experimental plot and cut to sward height of 2-5cm in late August: and monitor fruitbody production in following Autumn

All identifications via a combination of;

Fungi of Switzerland (1980-2002)
Flora Agaricina Neerlandica (1987-2007)
Funga Nordica (2012)
Mycena D'Europa (2003)
British Fungus Flora (1970-2001)
Microfungi on Miscellaneous Substrates (1996)
Keys to Grassland Clavarioid Fungi (2002)
The Genus *Hygrocybe* (2010)

Recommended beginner's guides with most Trooper's Hill species illustrated;

Mushrooms by Roger Phillips (1981 or 2005)
Mushrooms and Toadstools by Paul Sterry and Barry Hughes (2009)

Species List

Amanita muscaria
Arrhenia griseopallida
Bolbitius titubans
Clavulinopsis helvola
Clavulinopsis luteoalba
Clitocybe metachroa
Cystoderma amianthinum
Entoloma clandestinum
Entoloma conferendum
Galerina clavata
Hygrocybe ceracea
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Hygrocybe coccinea Scarlet Hood
Hygrocybe conica Conical Wax Cap
Hygrocybe laeta
Hygrocybe miniata
Hygrocybe pratensis Buff Meadow Cap
Hygrocybe psittacina Parrot Toadstool
Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Hygrocybe virginea Snowy Wax Cap
Laccaria amethystina Amethyst Deceiver
Laccaria laccata The Deceiver
Lycoperdon nigrescens
Mycena aetites
Mycena cf. agrestis
Paxillus involutus Brown Roll Rim
Psilocybe (Deconica) montana
Scleroderma verrucosum

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