

## Trooper's Hill Fungus Foray and Survey: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015

We were very pleased to be asked to continue the forays and survey work that had previously been done by Justin Smith. At the Foray on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 we were delighted that his widow, Lucy and son Wilfred were able to join us, along with members of the North Somerset and Bristol Fungus Group and members of the public. Fees and foray charges were donated to the Justin Smith Memorial Fund.

A recent analysis of Waxcap fungi has led to a updated view of their taxonomy. Hence some names have been changed. Where relevant the older names are listed in brackets.

The Foray on 1<sup>st</sup> November was very productive, producing over 40 species, including several that were new to the site. There were 9 Waxcap fungi on the Reserve, including some that had been seen before (*Hygrocybe coccinea*, *H. pratensis* and *H. laeta*), but importantly one species was new, *H. flavipes*. This is one of the less common Waxcaps, but is readily identified from the conspicuous yellow base to the stem of a generally grey fruiting body. The Reserve also had other new important grassland species, including three species of Earth Tongue (*G. glutinosum*, *G. umbratile* and *Trichoglossum hirsutum*). In contrast to 2013, there were conspicuous amounts of coral and club fungi, notably *Clavulina coralloides*, *Clavulinopsis fusiformis*, and *C. helvola*.

### Nature reserve:

*Clavaria coralloides*  
*Clavulinopsis fusiformis*  
*Clavulinopsis helvola*  
*Clitocybe fragrans*  
*Clitocybe rivulosa*  
*Cuphophyllus pratensis* (*Hygrocybe pratensis*)  
*Cuphophyllus virgineus* (*Hygrocybe virginea*)  
*Entoloma chalybeum*  
*Geoglossum glutinosum*  
*Geoglossum umbratile*  
*Gliophorus laetus* (*Hygrocybe laeta*)  
*Hygrocybe chlorophana*  
*Hygrocybe coccinea*  
*Hygrocybe conica*  
*Hygrocybe flavipes*  
*Hygrocybe reidii*  
*Hygrocybe russocoriacea*  
*Laccaria laccata*  
*Lycoperdon perlatum*  
*Mycena olivaceomarginata*  
*Rickenella fibula*  
*Trichoglossum hirsutum*

### Woodland and scrub areas

This area was disappointing, with only a few species including the Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*), *Paxillus involutus* and *Leccinum scabrum*, a bolete which showed no signs of blueing to the stem.

*Amanita muscaria* (under birch)  
*Erysiphe alphitoides*  
*Leccinum scabrum* (under birch)  
*Paxillus involutus*  
*Rhodocollybia butyracea*  
*Rhytisma acerinum*  
*Tubaria furfuracea*

## Children's Playground

The area around the children's playground was quite productive and provided a good introduction to fungal diversity for those on their first Fungi Foray. Several species were growing on the felled logs, including *Crepidotus mollis*, *Schizophyllum commune* and *Ganoderma australe*, whilst others, such as *Coprinellus micaceus*, *Parasola plicatilis* and *Psathyrella pseudogracilis*, were found in the soil around the logs.

*Armillaria gallica*  
*Auricularia auricula-judae*  
*Coprinellus micaceus*  
*Crepidotus mollis*  
*Exidia thuretiana*  
*Ganoderma australe*  
*Parasola plicatilis*  
*Psathyrella pseudogracilis*  
*Schizophyllum commune*  
*Xylaria hypoxylon*

### Summary

In nature conservation, important grasslands have designated CHEG values (CHEG = the total number of species of *Clavaria* and allies, *Hygrocybe*, *Entoloma* and *Geoglossum*). On the 1st November 2015, Trooper's Hill produced 3 Clavaroids, 9 Waxcaps, 1 *Entoloma* and 2 *Geoglossums*, giving a CHEG value of 15, indicating a site of significance, especially one within a city boundary. This value is a distinct improvement on 2013.

### Habitat Management and Recommendations

The previous recommendations by Justin Smith should be maintained. These can be summarised:

1. Regular mowing of the important grassland areas, including late season mowing to restrict the height of the grasses may encourage fungal fruiting. If possible the cut grass should be removed to avoid nutrient release.
2. Removal of litter and dog waste to maintain soil pH conditions and prevent nutrient build up. CHEG fungi depend on a low nutrient status.