

Mycological Survey of Trooper's Hill East Bristol

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A fungus survey was undertaken, on 22nd October 2005, an area of disused coal mines consisting of open, hilly areas of acid grassland, with encroaching areas of deciduous scrub. This scrub is essentially made up of mixed hawthorn, blackthorn, elder woods, with patches of dominant oak, birch and goat willow, the latter having numerous associated fungi.

The fungus survey was combined with a foray held for members of the Troopers Hill Local Group, and members of the public. Species found were duly recorded and are here presented. Details on the status of each species both locally and nationally is also given. Bear in mind that true species status for many in the UK is unclear, owing to under recording and that the current RDR list is out of date, with a new one being drawn up in the next 6 months.

Many species have been contentious in the sense, that what is regarded as a species to one author, may only be a variety or form for another. After these contentious species, I have followed this with *sensu* (in the sense of) followed by the author's name, so that references can be followed up. These contentious species will also be held in my herbarium for future reference.

Following the species list, the author has included management suggestions for both preserving and enhancing the mycoflora of the site.

This species list is not exhaustive, as fungus fruiting is a woefully unpredictable occurrence, dependant on a range of factors linked to the weather. For this reason, the author recommends a sequence of surveys over a five year period to develop a more complete picture,

Edible species are marked with an asterisk for reference only.

Species List

Basidiomycetes

I. Agaricales: Gill Fungi

- * *Agaricus campestris*: Field Mushroom. Common locally and nationally.
- Amanita muscaria*: Fly Agaric. Common with birch, locally and nationally.
- * *Armillaria mellea* agg: Honey Fungus. Common locally and nationally.
- Bolbitius vitellinus*: Yellow Cowpat Toadstool. Common locally and nationally,
- Clitocybe agrestis*: Under-recorded both locally and nationally.
- Clitocybe infundibuliformis*: Common Funnel Cap. Common locally and nationally.
- Clitocybe rivulosa*: Common locally and nationally.
- * *Clitopilus prunulus*: The Miller. Common locally and nationally.
- Collybia dryophila*: Russet Shank. Common locally and nationally.
- Coprinus disseminatus* Trooping Crumble Cap. Common locally and nationally.
- Cortinarius hemitrichus*: Birch end willow associate. Common locally and nationally.
- Cortinarius saniosus*: Willow associate. Under-recorded locally and nationally.
- Cystoderma amianthinum*: Common locally and nationally in hill grasslands.
- Entoloma infula*: Common locally, but nationally under-recorded.
- Entoloma papillatum*: Common locally and nationally, but under-recorded.
- Entoloma sericatum* var. *sericatum*: *sensu* Noordeloos. Willow associate, Under-recorded locally and nationally.
- Entoloma sericeum*: Common locally and nationally, but under-recorded.
- Hebeloma mesophaeum* var. *mesophaeum*: *sensu* Vesterholt. Common locally and nationally.
- * *Hygrocybe conica*: Conical Wax Cop: Common locally and nationally. Very common on Troopers Hill
- * *Hygrocybe virgineus*: Snowy Wax Cap. Common locally and nationally.
- * *Laccaria laccata*: Deceiver. Common locally and nationally.
- Laccaria proxima*: Acid grassland species. Rare locally, common nationally.
- Lepiota boudieri*: Common locally, but under-recorded nationally.
- Mycena galopus*: Common locally and nationally.
- Mycena leptocephala*: Common locally and nationally.
- Mycena metata*: Common locally and nationally.
- Mycena uracea*: Occasional in acid grasslands nationally, rare locally.

Paxillus involutus: Brown Roll Rim. Common birch associate, locally and notionally.

Psilocybe montana: Common in acid grasslands, so under-recorded locally.

Rickenella (Gerronema) fibula: Common locally and nationally.

Stropharia inuncta: Common locally and nationally, but under-recorded.

Tricholoma fulvum: Common birch associate nationally, scarce locally.

II. Gasteromycetes, Bracket Fungi and Coral Fungi

**Lycoperdon perlatum*: Common Puff ball. Common locally and nationally.

Macrotiophula fistulosus: Club Fungus. Common locally and nationally.

Peniophora cinerea: On Buddleia. Common locally and nationally.

Scleroderma areolatum: Common locally and nationally.

Lycoperdon lividum: Under-recorded locally and nationally.

Ascomycetes

Erysiphe trifolii: Cover mildew. Common locally and nationally.

Rhytisma acerinum: Tar Spot on Sycamore. Common locally and notionally.

Discussion

Nothing particularly rare was discovered on the day, but certainly many acid soil restricted species, such as *Tricholoma fulvum*, *Psilocybe montana* and *Laccaria proxima*, are scarce locally, as this habitat is rare around Bristol. *Mycena uracea* is one species the author has not seen very often, and is certainly under-recorded, if not rare, nationally. *Clitocybe agrestis* is also an under-recorded species, found on a variety of soil types, but has only recently appeared in accessible identification guides, which may explain why it is under-recorded. *Lepiota boudieri* requires microscope work in its identification, and has been recently created from *Lepiota fulvella*, which helps explain some identification confusion.

Recommendations

Further mycological surveys would expand this species list as in one day's surveying, a less than exhaustive list is produced.

Habitat Management for Fungi

These are recommendations only!

Clear away or control bramble and nettle around mycorrhizal trees such as Birch, Goat Willow, and Oak, to encourage fruiting of mycorrhizal fungi. This must be done to a height of around 15 cm,

Sheep graze open areas to keep down/control grass turf.

Alternatively, mow areas regularly that appear to be productive to fungus fruiting.

Cut down dog usage on site. Canine faeces is very acidic, and severely affects fungal development.

Leave dead branches attached to trees, if not a public threat, as particular fungi live on this type of habitat.

Create brush piles/wood piles from cut down branches.

Experimentally clearing leaf litter of mossy areas or short turf, as leaves can inhibit fruit body development in many species.

Citation References

Noordeloos et al. 1995: Flora Agaricinct Neerlandica. Vol 1
Vesterholt. J 2002: Keys to Hebeloma. Unpublished.