Friends of Weir Wood Society

Fungus Walk

Sunday 16th September 2018

The walk was organised with Nick Aplin - the Chairman of The Sussex Fungus Group and a County Fungus Recorder. We are grateful to Nick for all his hard work and to the members of his Group who spread out to help us all keep up with the different finds and explanations. This must have been one of the most expertly led groups ever with both County Fungus Recorders and the County Bryophyte (Mosses and Liverworts) Recorder all taking part.

It was fascinating watching the various experts going instinctively to the most likely location to find their items of interest. Sometimes it was a wet patch; sometimes a rotting log; sometimes a clump of grass and sometimes the side of a tree trunk.

The long dry summer has not been good for fungi. Perversely the water level in the reservoir has remained high throughout. So the larger and more colourful fungi had not grown. Nevertheless, our guides found a wide range of examples and some unusual species. They added background, histories and folk tales that made even the "little brown jobs" interesting.

We found a small piece of wood that had been stained green by Green Elfcup (see photo *1). In the 18th and 19th centuries such wood was prized for making Tunbridge Ware. The craft specialises in marquetry using many small pieces of different woods to form pictures and patterns. Only natural colours were used so the stained samples were in demand. The fungus is Chlorociboria aeruginascens and is also known as Green Wood Cup.

Some strange jelly blobs were found on the leaves of a tree. It looked like they contained eggs and tiny grubs (see photo *2). After getting some expert advice, it turns out that they were the eggs of a caddis fly - probably Glyphotaelius pellucidus - Mottled Sedge. This is common and often seen around the reservoir. The grubs grow from the eggs, emerge from their jelly and fall into the water. There they live on the bottom as larvae - building themselves a protective shell from small bits of debris. Eventually the larvae rise to the surface and transform into the adult flying form. Then they repeat the cycle by laying more eggs on leaves over water.

Nick was interested to examine the areas under our Black Poplar Trees. These are scarce and may host unusual fungi. It seems that our trees are as yet too young and small to have attracted special fungal partners.

We worked our way through the Study Area and out to the end of Pintail Point.

As we passed through areas of Birch, Alder, Willow and Oak we found different fungi that related to the specific trees and plants.

Brad Scott collected a Bionectriaceae that may be new to the UK. It was growing on Pendulous Sedge (Carex pendula) stems. The specimen has already been seen in France where it will be cultured and possibly sequenced. There may be more news when the results are made available.

Martin Allison collected Anguillospora rosea (or Orbila rosea) which is new to Sussex. It is remarkable in that it has an aquatic stage in its life cycle.

We are grateful to Nick Aplin, Martin Allison (both County Fungi Recorders) and the members of The Sussex Fungus Group for their generous and good natured help.

We also much appreciate the participation of Brad Scott the County Bryophyte Recorder.

 Some of the group in the study area.	 Coprinellus micaceus Mica Inkcap	 Daedaleopsis confragosa Blushing Bracket
 Hypholoma fasciculare Sulphur Tuft	 Hypholoma fasciculare Sulphur Tuft	 Xerula radicata Rooting Shank
 Paxillus involutus Brown Rollrim	 Tametes versicolor Turkeytail	 Mensularia radiata Alder Bracket
 Piptoporus betulinus Birch Bracket	 Caddis Fly Eggs *2	 Chlorociboria aeruginascens Green Elf Cup *1

 Common Earth Ball Scleroderma citrinum	 Bay Polypore	 Ochre Spreading Tooth Steccherinum ochraceum
 Botrydium granulatum - Algae	 Acalitus brevitarsus - Gall	 Acalitus brevitarsus - Bug

See next page for a list of all the fungi found.

List of all the Fungi Found

Amanita fulva	Tawny Grisette
Amanita rubescens	
Amanita vaginata	Grisette
Anguillospora rosea	
Bolbitius titubans	
Boletus cisalpinus	Bluefoot Bolete
Calycina claroflava	
Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa	
Chlorociboria aeruginascens	Green Elfcup
Clitocybe odora	Aniseed Toadstool
Coprinellus micaceus	Glistening Inkcap
Cronartium ribicola	
Daedaleopsis confragosa	Blushing Bracket
Ganoderma applanatum	Artist's Bracket
Gymnopilus	
Hymenoscyphus kathiae	
Hyphodontia sambuci	Elder Whitewash
Hypholoma fasciculare	
Hypomyces chrysospermus	Bolete Mould
Hypoxylon fuscum	Hazel Woodwart
Jackrogersella multiformis	Birch Woodwart
Jackrogersella multiformis	Birch Woodwart
Kuehneromyces mutabilis	Sheathed Woodtuft
Lactarius tabidus	Birch Milkcap
Lactarius volemus	Fishy Milkcap
Marasmiellus ramealis	Twig Parachute
Mensularia radiata	Alder Bracket
Mycena abramsii	
Naucoria escharioides	Ochre Aldercap
Piptoporus betulinus	Birch Polypore
Polyporus badius	Bay Polypore
Russula ochroleuca	Common Yellow Russula
Russula parazurea	Powdery Brittlegill
Schizopora paradoxa	Split Porecrust
Scleroderma citrinum	Common Earthball
Steccherinum ochraceum	Ochre Spreading Tooth
Trametes versicolor	Turkeytail
Tremella foliacea	Leafy Brain
Xerula radicata	Rooting Shank

We found Hymenoscyphus kathiae again in the same place as last year - so we now have two UK records of this species! TH-J 01-10-18