

## Fungi

*Tony Leech*

Although old news, the discovery of a fungus in Norfolk which is not only new to Britain but new to science deserves a mention in this journal; even if it is a microscopic parasite on another fungus. In the autumn of 2003, the British Mycological Society held its Autumn Foray in Holt. During the week, a visit was made to Swanton Novers NNR (TG 03) where, in the Great Wood, Martyn Ainsworth collected a specimen of what at first appeared to be *Corticium roseum*, a pinkish-buff resupinate (encrusting) fungus, from a dead attached willow branch. This species is widespread but uncommon in Britain, with four records from Norfolk, all by Reg Evans. Some unusual microscopic features of the fungus, however, enabled Martyn to determine that the specimen was actually the first European collection of *Laetocorticium simplicibasidium*. Yet further examination resulted in Peter Roberts (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) recognising that this 'species', originally described from a specimen collected in Arizona, USA (Lindsey & Gilbertson 1977), was in fact a combination of a sterile host (*C. roseum*) and a parasite. This meant that the parasite had not been properly described as a species, and Peter Roberts therefore went on to describe *Celatogloea simplicibasidium*, erecting a new genus for the purpose (the name coming from *celatus*, the Latin for 'concealed', and *gloea*, the Greek for 'glue') (Roberts 2005). The *Celatogloea* remains within the host and is not visible to the naked eye. It consists of hyphae which possess haustoria to extract nutrients from the host mycelium and basidia which typically bear single spores (in contrast to most species of basidiomycete fungus, in which each basidium produces four spores).

'Truffle' is a name given to any of the 60 or so fungus species in Britain in which the

fruit bodies mature below ground, it is the true truffles (*Tuber* spp.) which generate the most interest since some species are highly sought after for culinary purposes. Eleven species have been recorded in Britain but none are found commonly. In September a woman digging in a flowerbed close to a mature oak in the Wymondham area (TG 10) collected what she suspected were truffles and passed them, via Anne Edwards, to Tracy Money who provisionally identified them as the Large-spored Truffle *Tuber macrosporum*, an identification subsequently confirmed by Brian Spooner (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew). This was the first record for Norfolk and only the fourth for Britain, with the previous one from Warwickshire in 1911.

A quite unrelated (and probably inedible) false truffle, *Hydnangium carneum*, was found in some abundance in the garden of Bill and June Boardman at Bergh Apton (TG 3002) in December under *Eucalyptus* sp. This flesh-pink truffle fruits with just its upper surface visible above ground and is thought to have been introduced from Australia with its mycorrhizal partner. It was first recorded from Britain in 1875 but has not hitherto been reported from Norfolk.

Another 'first' for Norfolk revealed itself in the Boardmans' garden, this time on an old apple tree. Orchard Tooth *Sarcodontia crocea* is a striking fungus, both in appearance and smell; it forms an ochre, waxy crust with numerous tooth-like projections cascading down the split trunk, and has a very strong aroma, combining apple and cheese. With only 25 records on the national fungus record database, this parasitic fungus has the Red Data Book designation of Vulnerable B and may be getting scarcer as old orchards disappear.

Several hundred fungus species exploit herbivore dung as their sole food source although their fruit bodies appear but rarely as the dung often dries out. Incubating the dung in containers at home can therefore be an interesting way of obtaining new records. Pellets of Brown Hare dung collected from Blakeney Point (TG 0046) on 9 August produced funnel-shaped fruit bodies of the cup fungus *Peziza fimeti* after about ten weeks. Although this fungus is widespread in Britain it has not previously been recorded in Norfolk.

Woodchips continue to produce interesting records and on 21 October a heap at Whitlingham Cemetery (TG 2507) attracted the attention of Paul Bachelor who found growing on it clusters of *Agaricus rufotegulis*, a red-staining mushroom only recently (Surrey in 2003) recorded from Britain and still, apparently, restricted to the south-east.

In Leech *et al.* (2008) reference was made to fungi which, although generally considered to be restricted to old nutrient-poor grassland, had made an appearance on areas relatively recently reclaimed from agriculture. A further observation can now be added; the appearance of numerous fruit bodies of the earthtongue *Geoglossum umbratile* on the front lawns of three adjacent 1980s-bungalows in Holt (TG 085382).

A further new county record was provided by *Cortinarius parvannulatus* under birch on Holt Lowes (TG 0837), 25 September.

### Corrigenda

After publication of new Norfolk fungus records 2000-2007 (Leech *et al.* 2008), Alick Henrici, a mycologist working in the Fungus Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and co-author of the *Checklist of the British & Irish Basidiomycota* (2005),

supplied the following comments and corrections.

Records queried without dried material for verification: *Cheilymenia cadaverina*, *Cheimonophyllum candidissimum*, *Datronia stereioides*, *Galerina terrestris* (now named *G. minima*), *Hohenbuehelia reniformis*, *Mycena rosella*, *Mycena septentrionalis*, *Pholiota lubrica*, *Typhula sclerotoides* and *Typhula sphaeroidea*. The Kew Herbarium welcomes dried material of scarce species and those on unusual hosts.

Changes in name not appreciated (by ARL) which resulted in the following species erroneously noted as 'new to Norfolk': *Armillaria bulbosa* (actually *A. gallica*, correctly noted as a recent record) and *Coprinopsis jonesii* (formerly known as *Coprinus lagopides*, a fairly common species).

Species for which there exists some taxonomic doubt: *Lepiota clypeolarioides* and *Clavaria kriegelsteineri*.

Finally, we apologise to Martyn Ainsworth for reporting his initials as MAA rather than AMA.

### References

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- Legon, NW & Henrici, A, 2005. *Checklist of the British and Irish Basidiomycota*. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
- Lindsey, JP & Gilbertson, RL (1977). New species of corticioid fungi on quaking aspen. *Mycotaxon* 5 : 311-319
- Roberts, P (2005) *Celatogloea simplicibasidium*: a heterobasidiomycetous parasite of *Corticium roseum*. *Mycologist* 19(2): 69-71

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Orchard Crust *Sarcodontia crocea* on an apple tree. Bergh Apton. Tony Leech.



*Hydnangium carneum*. Bergh Apton. Tony Davy.