

**GRAMPIAN
FUNGUS
GROUP**

NEWSLETTER No.8

Dec. 2004

Grampian Fungus Group: Aims

- To record the fungi of North East Scotland.
- To encourage an interest in the importance of fungi in everyday life, wherever possible.
- To develop a greater understanding of fungi through forays, talks and workshops open to members of the Group.
- To increase the awareness of fungi through contact with local members of both professional and amateur groups which have environmental interests.
- To promote the conservation of fungi and of threatened habitats of rare fungi.

Committee Members

Chairperson

Dr. Geoff Hadley
74 Don St.
Old Aberdeen
Aberdeen

Group Leader, Foray Organiser, Newsletter Editor

Mrs. Liz Holden
Allanaquoich
Mar Lodge Estate
Braemar
Ballater
Aberdeenshire
AB35 5YJ
Tel: 013397 41410 Email: holdens@clara.co.uk

Secretary, Recorder

Mrs. Rosemary Smith
Mill of Cranna
Aberchirder
Huntly
Aberdeenshire
AB54 7SS

Treasurer, Membership Secretary

Mr. Denis Bain
17 Gleneagles Drive
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB22 8NH

Editorial

Another busy year has flown by – masses of fungi to keep us happy all the way through 2004. May really was a bonus month with group members reporting lots of interesting material. A delightful little stalked, cup fungus (*Monilinia johnstonii* – Haw Goblet) turned up on one of the previous year's buried haws on May 1st. Convince your friends and family that you have finally lost the plot – spend May Day scrabbling around underneath your nearest Hawthorn bushes.... *Calocybe gambosa* (St. George's Mushroom) had a good year and several reports of this fungus were given to me, particularly from coastal grasslands. This is of interest as the overwhelming number of records on the BMS managed database seem to be from England (921) and only 23 previous records from Scotland – under recorded? Another early fruiter that produced abundant fruit bodies this year was *Boletus pinophilus* (Pine Bolete) – this fungus a distinctly Scottish speciality with only a handful of records from England. Rosemary's find of *Gyromitra leucoxantha* (so rarely recorded that it doesn't have either a common name or a place on the provisional red list!) is only the second confirmed British record. Not bad for what was supposed to have been an entomological expedition!! Aspen trees are always worth keeping an eye out for and the trees around the Braemar Golf Course car park produced female catkins in May. The catkins don't appear every year so it was a real bonus to locate the rarely recorded *Taprina johansonii* (Aspen Tongue) causing the carpels of the catkins to swell into bright yellow 'tongues'. This was only May 30th – you'll have to read on to see what else turned up!

One administrative item that I would like to draw your attention to is the decision of the AGM to send out the majority of Diary Dates and foray lists by email. Those present were unanimous that this would be a good idea, saving on copying costs and postage and enabling dates to be forwarded to interested friends etc.. For those of you who do not have this facility, or who wish to have a paper copy sent to them, this will not be a problem at all. Please make the appropriate amendments on the enclosed membership form or let me know by some other means if you have already joined for 2005. The Newsletter will continue in paper format.

Happy fungling in 2005,
Liz Holden

Membership

Just a reminder that **annual subscriptions are due on January 1st** for 2005. The subscriptions have been kept at £3.00 and cheques should be made out to the Grampian Fungus Group and sent to Denis Bain at the address above.

N.B. if you have recently changed your email address or house address, please could you let Denis know so that we can update our records.

Grampian Fungus Group: Members

There were 42 paid up members at Nov 13th; the following is a list of those who have already paid their 2005 subscription.

N.B. – if your name is not on the list below and you wish to remain a member, please send your cheques before you forget!!

Mary and Denis Bain
Bill Burns
Ann Burns
Peter Fayers
Geoff and Maggie Hadley
Matthew Heasman
Liz and Peter Holden
Tessa Jones
Ann Miller
Susan Rae
Rosemary Smith
Hedda Weitz

Diary Dates

A full list of forays and events will be sent out in the spring (see Editorial). Here are a few dates for you diary however, the first being our spring foray which will take place on **Sunday May 1st**, meeting at 1.30pm, venue yet to be decided. A weekend in the Culbin area is proposed - **Sept. 10/11th**; it is hoped to spend one day at Sluie or possibly Loch of Blairs and the other at Buckie Loch, an interesting area of willow and alder within the Culbin Forest. Folk will need to find their own accommodation or travel daily although it might be possible to arrange a room at Culbin for evening work for the really keen!

The date of the next AGM was agreed, this being **Sat. Nov. 12th** starting at 2.00pm, venue to be confirmed.

N.B. By popular demand of the regular forayers we are intending to make all the forays full days in 2005.

GFG - Foray, Meetings, and AGM Reports 2004

The full species lists for the forays will follow in the spring; the following comments are just to give a flavour of each event:

Sun. May 2nd A good turnout of 12 members enjoyed an afternoon in the mixed woodlands of Leith Hall Estate owned by the National Trust for Scotland. A large woodpile kept everybody busy with wood decomposers in excellent condition and *Gyromitra esculenta* (False Morel) and *Melanoleuca cognata* (Spring Cavalier) both recorded.

Sat. August 21st Windyhills is a fascinating site with pine growing on the mineral soils of an ancient riverbed. We found a good range of fungi including *Ceriporia reticulata*, which is not often recorded in Scotland – probably overlooked as it is one of the ‘crusts’ that grow on the underside of dead logs. *Auriscalpium vulgare* (Earpick Fungus) was also present – much more ‘user friendly’ than the former and always a delight to find.

Sun Aug 29th A return visit to Inver Wood to see if we could relocate the *Bankera violascens* (Spruce Tooth) that skipped a year in 2003. Forestry Commission Scotland are reducing the number of ‘exotic’ tree species here but liaison with the local office has meant that the older blocks of spruce that support the *Bankera* have been left intact. During this visit we recorded three ‘tooth’ fungi *Bankera violascens*, *Phellodon melaleuca* (Grey Tooth) and then, new to the site, *Hydnellum concrescens* (Zoned Tooth). The birch associate *Cortinarius violaceus* (Violet Webcap) was also fruiting in its usual place.

Sat. Sept 4th A poor turnout for the Winding Walks foray – everybody missed a treat with more than 14 species of *Russula* amongst other things.

Sun Sept 5th Marysia took our display along to the Craibstone Treefest and had an enjoyable time meeting members of the public and all sorts of other woodland enthusiasts. She would like to repeat the exercise in 2005 and would welcome some help – if anybody would like to go along, do let Marysia know.

Thurs. Sept 9th – Sun. Sept 12th Mar Lodge Foray/Workshop weekend.

Thursday afternoon, and folks arrive from near and far, by plane, boat, train and car, for a second Mar Lodge weekend. Friday morning, the sun shining from a clear blue sky and tourists heading for the Linn of Dee see an unusual sight. Twenty people kneeling in a circle at Inverey flats! What is this? A new group-bonding idea? No, we achieved that on Thursday evening with the ‘Kitchen Waltz’ as we fed and watered ourselves in the Stable Block. Sun-worshippers giving thanks? No, but a reasonable guess. We were actually admiring the brilliant colours of a group of very fresh *Leccinum aurantiacum*! In the same area also, a large colony of *Cortinarius triumphans* with the birch, *Phellinus tremulae* hiding on the Aspen trunks and a large group of *Calvatia utriformis* out in on the grassland alongside a selection of waxcaps.

Then on to Inverey Wood to see the gypsies – hundreds of *Rozites caperatus*! Present also, various *Lactarius* and *Russula*, including the relatively easy to identify *Russula decolorans* and several *Cortinarius* species (is that a starting price for the odds against a successful identification that I hear?). Add two large groups of superb *Sarcodon imbricatus** but first, mind you don’t stand on the *Clavaria rosea* in the car park and what about all those *Porpoloma metapodium* in the grass...

After a lunch in the sunshine (shared with a few wasps), we were back at Mar Lodge for the serious identification work. A superbly varied group, with young and old, beginner and time served microscopist, and all enthusiastic. The result, a gentle hum as brains work, youngsters ask intelligent (i.e. hard) questions, and Liz trying to help one and all to progress. Soon adding more names to the species list.

On Saturday morning a visit to the birch and juniper of Morrone Wood. A tremendous variety of fungi - Milkcaps, including the lilac staining *Lactarius uvidus*, various *Cortinarius*, including *C. talus* and the yellowing *C. bolaris*, *Amanita crocea* and the white *A. vaginata var. alba*. In addition enough *Leccinum* fruitbodies to cause a queue for every copy of the key back at Mar Lodge.

For evening relaxation, Liz organised a variety of entertainments including an interesting slide show and an informal exposition, by Dave Genney, on how to identify fungi in the soil from their mycelium. Dave is working for Aberdeen University and the MLURI Institute and using DNA analysis to work on the spatial distribution of fungi in Culbin Forest (See 2003 Newsletter). There was a visit to the Stag Ballroom and a midnight fire evacuation where the only sign of smoke was the rapidly lit nicotine tranquillizer!

Sunday morning, a quick foray of Bessies Wood (or should that be ‘Deer Pit Drive’?) where we found good specimens of *Macrolepiota rhacodes*, *Tricholoma imbricatum*, the yellow-green *Omphalina grossula* and a possible *Hydropus scabripes*.

Reluctantly we pack up and leave, happier and hopefully wiser. Thanks to Liz for organising another memorable Mar Lodge weekend, to Denis for keeping the money straight, Dave for his excellent talk and to Rachel for organising a thank you presentation to Liz!

Dave Savage

(Editor’s Note - *DNA sequencing has shown that *S. imbricatus* is in fact *S. squamosus* – both of these species are found in other parts of N. Europe, the latter associating with pine and the former with spruce – a paper is in press (R. Watling pers. comm.)

Sat. Sept 18th Rather than spend a whole day in Culbin itself, we opted to explore the woodlands around Sluie Walks in the morning. This area is one that would have been known to the Rev. J. Keith – a field mycologist who was the minister in Forres and who made many important fungal collections from this part of the world in the second half of the 19th century. As with other sites visited this year, half a day was nowhere near long enough – hence the decision to opt for full day forays in 2005. For the afternoon we moved a few miles north to Culbin and once again enjoyed the pinewood mycota there. Nice material of *Ischnoderma benzoinum* (Benzoin

Bracket) and also *Cystoderma granulosum* was found.

Sat Sept 25th After those participants arriving from the south passed their initiative test (it's a long story but if anybody is missing a mycological family member it is possible that they are still driving around Banchory looking for the start of this foray!), we set off for a full day around Loch of the Leys. Much of this site is plantation but there is a good pinewood mycota present with *Mycena purpureofusca* and *Cortinarius scaurus* (Green Webcap) of note. The site also has semi-natural areas of birch with willow and alder fringing a phragmites reed bed.

Sun. Oct. 3rd We forayed in two distinct habitats at Shannel – base rich semi-improved grassland and semi-natural birch woodland. The former was rather disappointing with only 4 species of *Hygrocybe* (Waxcaps) and 2 *Clavulinopsis* (Fairy Clubs). The birch associating fungi were much more evident with good material of *Cortinarius triumphans* (Birch Webcap), *Russula velenovskii* (Coral Brittle-gill) and *Leccinum roseofractum* (Blushing Bolete).

Sat. Oct 9th Half a day just isn't long enough although Forvie specialities, including *Lepiota alba*, *Peziza ammophila* and *Psathyrella ammophila* were recorded! An informal visit to the site later on confirmed that the rarely recorded *Calocybe obscurissima* was fruiting again.

Public forays were led by group members on Sept. 18th, 19th and October 10th. These were well attended and produced plenty of interesting fungi for forayers.

Sat Nov 13th AGM and Slide Show. Twelve members were present and thirteen apologies sent. Denis Bain presented the accounts and reported that there were 42 paid up members at the time of the AGM. This number of subscriptions enables the group to cover its main costs of printing and posting the newsletter and also maintaining its insurance premium. It was agreed to hold the subscription at £3.00 although this will be reviewed again next year.

It was noted that a second hand projector is likely to be gifted to the GFG in the near future. A full list of the group's assets is given on the back page of the Newsletter and members are encouraged to make use of them.

Liz Holden then reported on the various forays and surveys in which members had been involved. The detail of this report is reproduced in this and the following sections of the newsletter. The meeting discussed the possibility of Diary Dates and Foray Lists (usually mailed out in April) being sent via email in future. This would save the GFG postage and copying costs and be available in a flexible format. It was agreed that anybody without email or who wished to continue receiving hard copy for

other reasons could do so by arrangement with Liz Holden.

Peter Fayers proposed that the standing officers be re-elected and, as the officers were happy to continue, the proposal was agreed.

It was noted that members were asked to seriously consider who else might be prepared to take on the role of Officers, particularly of Chairperson, Foray Organiser and Newsletter Editor, for proposal at the 2005 AGM. Marysia expressed an interest in Foray Organiser.

Following a tea break, thanks are due to Mary Bain, Liz Holden and Marysia Stamm for sharing their photographs.

A full set of minutes is available on request.

Thanks again to Geoff Hadley who organised the venue and to Mary and Denis who provided tea.

Survey Reports 2004

GFG Survey of Kincardine District Plantations for the Forestry Authority

See foray report for Aug. 29th.

Monitoring Biodiversity Action Plan Species (BAPS)

Inverey Wood had a much better year, with *Bankera fuligineoalba* (Drab Tooth), four *Hydnellum* species, one *Phellodon* and spectacular fruitings of *Sarcodon imbricatus* (see * under Mar Lodge workshop weekend report). Despite a scare caused by the appearance of a visitor's bonfire site more or less on top of the previous fruiting site of *Boletopsis leucomelaena* (Black Falsebolete), the species delighted us by reappearing during October (must remember to nag the Ranger about the risk of bonfires!).

The survey of *Hygrocybe calyptriformis* (Pink Waxcap) was completed this year on Haddo House lawns. Mary Bain and Liz counted more than 200 fruitbodies during one visit at the beginning of October. Whilst mapping this wonderful fruiting, Mary queried a small, lilac grey, shaggy fungus growing in the mossy sward. Liz got fairly excited and soon both were lying in the wet grass taking photographs (see photo page for Mary's results)! During the course of the morning two additional fruitings were located on the lawns, the first had three fruitbodies arising from a common, swollen base, the second had two and the third, eight. Once home, consultation with the key suggested that this was in fact *Squamanita pearsonii* and Roy Watling has since confirmed the identification. This is the second collection of this species in the UK, both from Scotland (the previous collection from Speyside in 1950). There are a few additional records from Europe.

The genus *Squamanita* is thought to be parasitic on other agarics (see also GFG newsletter 2003) although the exact relationship between the host and the *Squamanita* is not known. The Haddo collection would appear to have been growing on *Cystoderma amianthinum* (Earthy Powdercap), which was fruiting on the lawns in large numbers.

Tulostoma niveum (White Stalkball) produced a moderate number of fruitbodies this year. It is tempting to suggest that it was resting after the bumper year in 2003 but since we don't understand what stimulates the fruiting of this species that would be pure speculation. As in previous years the bulk of the colonies were in the core area on the SE slopes of Craig Leek; the number of new colonies continues to rise.

British Mycological Society

(BMS) News

British Mycological Society Recording Network (BMSRN) News

BMS Recording Network Group Leaders Meeting June 18-20th 2004: Report

An excellent turn out of representatives from 21 recording groups attended the meeting at Keele University. A wide-ranging programme of speakers and discussion provided a positive and stimulating event, looking at ways of linking the work of local groups into the promotion of mycology amongst both conservation agencies and the wider public.

Education secretary's report: Jane Nicklin could not attend but a written report was presented to the meeting summarizing the ongoing work of promoting mycology with science advisors and educators in secondary schools and higher education. The BMS Roadshow goes from strength to strength and worked alongside the Mid-Yorkshire Fungus Group at Harlow Carr Gardens to great effect.

Foray Secretary's report: Derek Schafer outlined the foray and workshop arrangements through until 2006. It was noted that the autumn foray of 2006 was not yet decided and that Derek's term of office comes to an end in December 2004; it is hoped to announce a successor shortly.

Conservation Officer's report: Shelley Evans presented a wide-ranging portfolio of activity ranging from global, with the BMS signing up to four targets on Plantlife's Global Plant Strategy to the local, with concern being registered over management changes to local sites of importance for their fungi. Other projects tackled, include the Basidiomycetes Checklist, the British Red Data List, The European Red Data List, the Bern Convention, the Fungal Portal, PlantaEuropa Network and Recommended English Names Project.

'Guidance Notes to Collecting and Recording Fungi': Richard Iliffe reported that this was now

finished and available for downloading on the BMS Website. Each recording group has now received a hard copy but further copies will be made on demand only, as the content will require frequent updating. Thanks were given to Richard Iliffe for his hard work on this over the last four years.

New Affiliation Proposals: Tony Whalley presented the draft texts of the proposed form and supporting documents. The Keele meeting in 2002 had asked that the issue of the BMS covering local groups with their own insurance be revisited so that a choice of reasonably priced public liability insurance would then be available. Recent changes in Charity Law have meant that this is now an option, and the affiliation document has been updated accordingly. The draft documents were warmly received by the 2004 meeting and work continues to turn this into a reality.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew: Peter Roberts updated the meeting on recent developments at Kew including staff changes and the impending extension to the Jodrell Laboratory building where it is intended that the Mycology Dept will be located from the end of 2005.

Publications: Geoffrey Kibby opened with a review of 'Field Mycology'. The magazine is doing well with 1300 subscribers but would welcome more to ensure its financial stability. Geoffrey asked that everybody should consider writing short articles for publication – such material was always welcome. As the discussion widened to include other publications of the Society it became evident that those present considered a review of the Society's publications portfolio could benefit all.

Library: Valerie Barkham reported the sad death of her predecessor, Kitty Brady. She then updated the meeting on the situation regarding Abstracts being available on the BMS Website and appealed to everybody to contribute snippets for the mycological scrapbook that Margaret Holden started and Valerie is hoping to continue.

BMSFRD: this is valued both as a repository for the fungal recording effort of mycologists in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland and also as a tool to inform the conservation world about existing knowledge of the distribution and frequency of our fruiting fungi. The meeting was unanimous in supporting a national database, managed by the Society. Considerable time was spent in considering how best to move the database forward and many ideas were tabled. The establishment of a short-term contract was seen as one workable way of progressing such issues as the cleaning of data and the construction of guidelines and protocols.

Several speakers were invited to make presentations to the meeting, loosely on the theme of the mutual contributions that local recording groups and conservation agencies can make. Naomi Ewald spoke about her work with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, looking at Biodiversity Action Plan fungi in the New Forest. Adam Rowe of the Powys and Brecon Beacons Biodiversity Records Centre, was unfortunately unable to attend but sent a paper which was presented. It highlighted the benefits of very accurate plotting of sites of local

conservation concern so that planners had accurate information on which to base decisions. Martyr Ainsworth presented his work for English Nature into researching fungi as indicator species of dead wood habitat quality. This latter dovetailed with questions raised in a short presentation by Liz Holden about the Site Condition Monitoring of the SSSI system.

Liz Holden

BMS Autumn Foray August 19 - 27th 2005.

This foray is to be based at Glen More on Speyside and will visit a range of sites in the Highlands. Facilities will be available for bringing a microscope and working in the evening and the BMS 'foray library' and demonstration microscopes will be there. Those who wish to book for the whole week should check out the BMS website (www.britmycolsoc.org.uk) for a booking form. I am thinking about trying to organise a day or two (possibly Aug 20/21) when local group members (GFG, Fife and FGSES) who are not seasoned BMS forayers can come along in an informal capacity to see what goes on at a BMS foray and actually do some foraying without having to join in for the whole week. A sort of introductory taster! If you would be interested in this please let Liz know asap.

Contributions from GFG Members and Friends

...A light when all other lights go out?...

On holiday in Texas, visiting my sister, my parents and I often went on a walk around the local area, partly to look at birds, but also to look at any fungi we might come across. During one of these walks, we passed the local golf course, and noticed a large 'pile' of bright orange fungi. Jill went to collect a piece, being bolder in braving possible golf-balls and strange looks from passing golfers! Back at home, it seemed to match the description of *Omphalotus illudens* the 'Jack O'Lantern', which is said to glow an eerie green colour in the dark.

Later that evening, we arrived back from a meal out, and decided to test the identification by walking round the corner to see if it really did glow! Unfortunately the streetlights were just too bright so we brought a piece back, all retired to the small bathroom (there were five of us, so my brother-in-law had to stand in the bath!) and turned out the lights. Once our eyes had grown accustomed to the dark, we could see a faint, greenish glow, quite distinct when Jill started waving it around.

This was a whole new experience for me: I've never been in a darkened bathroom with so many people before!!

John McOwat

When you can't see the wood for the fungi

This mycology business can be quite difficult at times. You know what it's like when you're out there, foraying like mad, and you proudly make your way back to Group Leader to show off your latest find. "Oh, wonderful", says GL, "that's very interesting/unusual/extremely rare. Habitat?" Brief pause. "What was it growing with?" "Umm ... it was a tree!". GL can give you a very odd look at such times, a mixture of derision and pity. What the heck, you think, I only joined up for the mycology, nobody said anything about dendrology as well.

Of course you can't hope to have any real understanding of the wonderful world of fungi without at least a nodding acquaintance with the other denizens of their environment. But if, like me, you can't tell your ash from your alder, fear not – there is help at hand. And, as with most fields of knowledge nowadays, the best place to start is the Internet.

As you might expect, the Forestry Commission provides an excellent starting point (www.forestry.gov.uk). Clicking on the 'Learning' link on the homepage will take you to something beloved of all mycologists – KEYS! 'Identify trees by their leaves' is an excellent step-by-step elimination route from leaf to tree, just like pinning down that elusive *Cortinarius* (only much easier). Whoever sorted that one out deserves a prize. Also under 'Learning' you will find 'Forest Factfile', which includes species descriptions, with photographs, as well as other forest lore. Not to be confused with the latter is 'New Forest Fact Files' – this is a comprehensive collection of articles about the New Forest, though obviously much of the information is relevant to the forest environment in general. Back on the homepage there is a link to a downloadable 19-page booklet, entitled 'Life in the Deadwood', of particular interest to mycologists as it describes how and why dead trees provide life for the forest.

The British Trees website (www.british-trees.com) provides a 'Native Tree Guide'. This contains descriptions of our native species, accompanied by much useful and interesting background information. Unfortunately, there are not as many photographs as I would like; verbal descriptions are fine but you know what they say about a picture. A definite 'plus' for this site is its 'Links' section – all good websites have related links, as you will know if you have ever gone trolling after fungi. British Trees gives you a very comprehensive list of national and international links.

The Woodland Trust (www.woodland-trust.org.uk) is another excellent source of information. I especially like the 'Our Woods' link on the homepage. This takes you to a Directory of the Woodland Trust properties, with a 'search' facility, which enables you to select individual woods by name or more generally by area, county or country. For example, a hit on 'Scotland' will bring up all 53

properties in Scotland. By then selecting the 'View site' option for an individual wood you can bring up an 'interactive' map as well as a site description giving full details of location, access, habitats and history. If you want to you can also access Management Plans and Future Intentions for each wood. The kind of information provided make this a particularly useful resource for planning visits to otherwise unfamiliar areas.

But I have to say that my favourite site is that of Trees For Life (www.treesforlife.org.uk). Trees For Life is a charitable organisation that, in cooperation with other major players, is dedicated to restoring the Caledonian forest in the Highlands. One of their main areas of activity is in Glen Affric and, if you really want to get involved, they provide opportunities for voluntary work in helping to bring about their aims. However, their website is an absolute mine of information on trees and forestry: everything from individual species to all aspects of forest wildlife as well as reports and studies of local and international significance. You'll even find an article about 'Hidden Fungi' by a bloke called Dave Genney. There's all sorts of weird stuff out there. If you don't go anywhere else, go to Trees For Life.

Bill Burns

***Suillus flavidus*, *Boletinus cavipes* and square bashing**

In late summer while carrying out a survey of cones on various conifers in the forests on the Black Isle I came across a small mustard coloured *Suillus* which I did not immediately recognise. As it was growing with Lodgepole Pine in an area of damp peat my curiosity was aroused and I took some samples home. They keyed out as *Suillus flavidus* (see photograph page), a species described by Phillips as "rare and more or less confined to the Scottish highlands". The following weekend I had to go down to Glasgow and decided on the west coast route where I called in for a short stop at a favourite haunt – the native pinewood on the shores of Loch Tulla. *Suillus flavidus* was there to meet me as I got out of the car, this time growing in wet peat with Scots Pine...it was clear that 2004 was going to be a good year for this species and it might not be as rare as first thought.

I put this thought behind me until I bumped into it at work once again the following week, so I set about doing some systematic surveying on a 10km square basis. On one fruitful evening it was quickly found in 3 squares on the Black Isle, by visiting areas of wet pinewood, where it was found associating with both Scots and Lodgepole Pine. It was during this evening foray while visiting a site near Ardmearach Loch where I stopped in an area of wet heathery larch plantation to record what on first impression was going to be *Tricholomopsis rutilans*. Imagine my surprise when on picking it I found it was poroid with decurrent pores. This was something new! It turned out to be *Boletinus cavipes*, which was certainly an exciting find. What was more interesting was that during the next two weeks I found *B. cavipes* on another two occasions. Again these were in wet

mossy larch plantations. Foresters traditionally planted larch on well-drained mineral soils and often used the presence of bracken as a guide of where to plant it. This trend however declined in the 1970s and 1980s when larch was used as a firebreak and ploughing and fertilisers were used to "force" species into a wider range of habitats. The presence of *B. cavipes* at three wet mossy larch sites made me wonder whether this was habitat in which it was found on the GFG forays (see 2003 Newsletter) and if this is indeed its site type, whether it will be increasingly found as the younger larch areas on poor ground mature.

By the end of the season I had found *Suillus flavidus* in 22 different 10 km squares spread from Loch Maree, to Loch Tulla and east to Culbin. Nine of these sites were wet Scots Pine woodlands, while the remaining 13 were Lodgepole Pine plantations. *Suillus flavidus* appears to be more adapted to living in wetter soils than other pine mycorrhizae and is clearly considerably more common than the 11 squares previously recorded in Scotland in the BMSFRD. Needless to say these new records are now on their way to the BMSFRD in the hope that the "rare" epithet may be dropped.

David Jardine

Editor's note: At the BMS Autumn Taxonomy meeting in November, Ian Alexander (Aberdeen University) gave a talk on his work with mycorrhizal species. He noted that *Suillus flavidus* was one of the most frequent species of mycorrhiza forming fungi found on pine roots.

Mini Pink Waxcap Survey

In September of 2004, I noted a good number of *Hygrocybe calyptiformis* (Pink Waxcap) growing in a garden close to Mum and Dad's on the south side of Glasgow. In previous years they've had this fungus on their own back lawn, so as it looked as though it might be a good year, I decided to walk around the local area to see if I could find some more.

It was soon obvious that there were a good number around and thus encouraged I extended my search to three additional areas in south Glasgow. In the end, I located approximately 120 fruit bodies on 13 different front lawns! These were mainly concentrated in the outer suburban area (houses at least 35 years old) although this may just be a reflection of the greater search effort in this area, which also coincided with the peak fruiting period.

The lawns concerned all appeared to be well tended and certainly not left to 'go wild'. This may of course be a reflection of neat mowing and edging rather than having had lots of weed/moss killer or lawn improvers applied.

A recent article by Gareth Griffith in British Wildlife (Vol 16. No. 1 Oct 2004) suggests that the moss *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* is usually present with the Pink Waxcap: it certainly seems to be the commonest moss on my parent's lawn.

John McOwat

Useful Fungal Information

The information given below is not exhaustive. If you know of any other relevant contacts, please let Liz know.

Books and Other Publications

There is a wide range of material available for all levels of mycological interest - the only limit really being one's purse! Many books for beginners are available in good book stores but there are other sources that are useful to know about, especially as one progresses beyond the limits of beginners guides.

Paul Nichol has produced an excellent simple key to genus called '**An Initial Guide to the Identification of Mushrooms and Toadstools**'. The new, improved second edition, cost £3.00, is available direct from Paul at WEA Office, Horncastle College, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6BN (01507 524332)

The **BMS** have produced an excellent range of 'Guides For The Amateur Mycologist'.

The titles at present are '**Guide for the Beginner**'; '**Guide to Identification with a Microscope**'; '**Guide to Recording Fungi**'; '**Guide for the Kitchen Collector, Preservation and Cooking of Fungi**'; '**Downy Mildews, Powdery Mildews, Smuts and Rusts**'. Each costs £2.00. Individuals can order directly from Mrs. Valerie Barkham, c/o The Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB. (There is also a set of 16 postcards of larger fungi costing £3.00 plus 50p post available from the same address).

The BMS also publish **KEYS** which is a series of papers containing a range of keys and checklists details of which are available from Liz Holden. There are now eleven issues of this publication and the cost for a full set is £17.25 plus £2.55 post. They are available from Archie McAdam, Silverdale, Raikeswood Crescent, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 1ND.

Many of the more advanced books and sets of identification keys are available from Retail Postal Book Sales Department, **The Richmond Publishing Co. Ltd.**, PO Box 963, Slough SL2 3RS. It is certainly worth comparing their catalogue with those of other natural history book specialists such as Subbuteo and the Natural History Book Service.

Association of British Fungus Groups produces a quarterly journal containing a range of material of interest to field mycologists. Annual subscription is available from Michael Jordan, Harveys, Alston, Nr. Axminster, Devon EX13 7LG.

Residential Courses on Fungi

A number of field centres run courses on various aspects of mycology: -

Kindrogan Field Centre, Enochdu, Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH10 7PG Tel: 01250 870150.

The Field Studies Council, Head Office, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 1HW Tel: 01743 850674. The FSC has centres located across England and Wales.

Losehill Hall, Peak District National Park Centre, Castleton, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 8WB Tel: 01433 620373

Other Items of Mycological Interest

For those who wish to take their mycology a little more seriously and tackle some of the more advanced identification keys, a microscope is essential. The following three companies are those that I know of who will send out catalogues with products suitable for our needs:

Meiji Techno UK Ltd. Hillside, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2AN Tel: 01934 733 655 E-mail: enquiries@meijitechno.co.uk Web Sites: www.meijitechno.co.uk www.microscopes.co.uk

Brunel Microscopes Ltd. Unit 12 Enterprise Centre, Bumpers Way, Bumpers Industrial Estate, Chippenham, Wilts. SN14 6QA Tel: 01294 462655

Optical Vision Ltd., Unit 2b, Woolpit Business Park, Woolpit, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9RT Tel: 01359 244200

Mycologue - a catalogue of accessories for mushroom collectors available from 47, Spencer Rise, London NW5 1AR

Quekett Microscopical Club - the club magazine often has second hand microscopes for sale and accepts 'items wanted' adverts too.

Photographs

The page of photographs could not have been produced without the help of Mary and Denis Bain. Mary's photographs are of *Squamania pearsonii* and *Phaeolepiota auria*, Liz Holden took *Hydnellum scrobiculatum*, *Russula norvegica* and *Rhytisma salicina* and Rosemary Smith the *Macrotyphula fistulosa*. The *Agaricus augustus* was photographed by Donald McDonald of Perth.



Macrotypula fistulosa (Pipe Club)-the upright form was abundant in litter under a beech and conifer plantation at Leith Hall. The contorted form was also abundant at an adjacent site on alder wood.



Hydnellum scrobiculatum (Ridged Tooth)-This is one of the less common tooth fungi found in the Highlands. As its English name suggests the fruit body is conspicuously radially furrowed and has fewer concentric markings than its lookalike *Hydnellum conrescens* (Zoned Tooth).



Russula norvegica-found on the Cairngorm plateau growing with *Salix herbacea* (Least Willow). This is probably a form of *Russula laccata*, an associate of willows in more lowland settings.



Squamanita pearsonii-whilst mapping *Hygrocybe calyptiformis* (Pink Waxcap) at Haddo House, we turned up the second British record of this fungus. It is thought to be parasitic on *Cystoderma amianthinum* (Earthy Powdercap).



Phaeolepiota aurea (Golden Bootleg)-this beautiful but infrequently recorded fungus has now turned up three times for the GFG. The sheathing membranous veil gives the fungus its English name.



Rhytisma salicina (Willow Tarspot) -a close relative of *Rhytisma acerina* (Sycamore Tarspot) parasitic on the leaves of Sycamore. This example is growing on *Salix herbacea* (Least Willow) high up on the Cairngorm plateau.

Dwarf

Grampian Fungus Group – books and equipment Dec. 2004

The following is a list of the books and other equipment that the GFG can supply / lend to its members.

The books and chemicals are stored by Liz Holden and can be obtained by ringing or emailing Liz, preferably just before a meeting or foray. Books can be posted if the recipient doesn't mind reimbursing Liz in 'stamp' form but chemicals and glass wear will have to be collected.

The microscopes are stored by Mary and Denis Bain and can either be collected by arrangement or handed over at forays or meetings.

Grampian Fungus Group Library

Nordic Macromycetes Vol. 2 (1992). A set of keys (in English) for Polyporales, Boletales, Agaricales and Russulales – not intended for beginners this is really what you need when you start identifying fungi with a microscope.

Keys to Agarics and Boleti (1978). A set of keys (in English) for Polyporales, Boletales, Agaricales and Russulales) – as above but a little older – still a very useful text.

Mushrooms of Britain and Europe (1999). A pocket sized photographic field guide by Regis Courtecuisse in the Collins Wildlife Trust Guide series, published by HarperCollins

Waxcap-Grassland Fungi – Keys to Hygrocybe, Camarophyllopsis, Dermoloma and grassland Leptonia species in Britain (1996) Alick Henrici – a set of photocopied keys using microscopic characters

A key to the genera of the Agarics and Boleti (1950) AA Pearson. Rather out of date but still a useful key to genus using microscopic characters

Guides for the Amateur Mycologist 2. Guide to Identification with a microscope (1994) JVR Marriott Full of useful information about working with a microscope

Flora of British Fungi Colour Identification Chart (1969) A colour chart, referred to in some British texts.

The Mitchell Beazley pocket guide to Mushrooms and Toadstools (1982) DN Pegler – a small fieldguide arranged by habitat.

Chatto Nature Guides British and European Mushrooms and Fungi (1977) A. Neuner – not very many species included but some very nice photographs

Fungi of Britain and Europe (1989) Stephan Buczacki – pocket field guide illustrated with drawings – a good range of species included

A Colour Guide to familiar Mushrooms (1978) M. Svrcek – a pocket field guide illustrated with nice drawings although not many species included

Mushrooms (1996) M. Svrcek a pocket field guide – illustrated with photographs – a much better range of species

The new field guide to fungi (1978) E. Soothill and A Fairhurst – reasonable amount of text and species although photographs are rather disappointing

A handbook of Mushrooms undated A. Pilat. Not very many species included: illustrated with drawings

Les Champignons de France (1946) A. Maublanc. Not very many species included: illustrated with rather nice drawings

Fungi (1998) P. Starosta and C Epinat A photographic essay – coffee table book

Colour Encyclopedia of Mushrooms and Toadstools (1979) G. Kibby – a photographic essay – coffee table book

The Wonderful world of Mushrooms and other fungi (1977) H. Pursey – a photographic essay – coffee table book

I Funghi A collection of cards – each card illustrating a species (text in Italian)

Photographing Nature: Fungi (1975) H. Angel – lots of information about how to photograph fungi – a bit out of date?

How the Mushroom Got its Spots (2002) An Explainers' Guide to Fungi. British Mycological Society and Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council

Fungus Fred goes Foraying (2002) Maggie Hadley. British Mycological Society

The Fungi Name Trail (2003) A key to commoner fungi. Field Studies Council / British Mycological Society

Recommended English Names for Fungi (2003) The Plantlife Bookstore

Collecting and Recording Fungi (2004) Guidance Notes. British Mycological Society.

Grampian Fungus Group Microscopes

1 x Wessex compound binocular microscope with built in light source and mechanical stage

3 x Watson compound monocular microscopes with built in light source and mechanical stage

Equipment - mostly for working with microscopes

NB the chemicals come with health and safety information and are supplied in appropriate dispensers. There is a charge of £1.00 a bottle.

Glass microscope slides

Glass cover slips

Melzers Reagent

10% Ammonia solution

10% Potassium hydroxide solution

Congo Red in ammoniacal solution

Ferrous crystals

1 x Bell-Howell slide projector and transit case. Accepts carousels.