

## Lost & Found Fungi project report, Jan-Feb 2016

Brian Douglas

Hi all,

This will be a short update, but with big implications! I hope you enjoy it.

### Online mapping release!

January and February are relatively quiet months for fungal recording, so we've been using this time to finalise our mapping interface for the Lost and Found Fungi project.

We're now releasing our current working database online, as a fully geolocated dataset using the Google Fusion Tables API, accessible via the front page of the Lost and Found Fungi project website at <http://fungi.myspecies.info/content/lost-found-fungi-project>. Guidance documentation is available on the main page (below the map link), but we hope that most of you will have no difficulty getting to grips with the interface.

What this means is that you now have, at your fingertips, the best currently available distribution map of some of the UK's most rarely recorded fungi. It's not perfect yet, but it's a good start.

We're hoping this online, zoomable mapping system will act as the baseline "treasure map" to help people look for our LAFF target species. The map is filterable by a wide range of fields – species, month of record, which species fruit each month, vice county, country, recorder, and so on. You can click on each point on the map to reveal a pop-up record box with full record details for each record. Click on the fungus picture or species name, and it'll load up the species page on the Fungi of Great Britain and Ireland website at <http://fungi.myspecies.info/>.

We would really appreciate it if you could have a look at this online mapping interface and let us know what you think. Is it user-friendly enough? Is it powerful enough? Is it something you would use on a regular basis, or want to adapt for your own datasets? Any suggestions for improvement will be gratefully received.



Background map ©2016 Google - Map data ©2016  
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## Details of the project to date

Since it's been just over a year since I started working on the Lost and Found Fungi project, I thought it would be good to provide some brief summary data (mostly derived from our online mapping interface), to give an overall view of how the project is doing. We have:

- accumulated new records of 41 species on our Top 100 Target list, and also new records of *Xenotypha aterrima* (the fungal host of *Dencoeliopsis johnstonii*) within the LAFF project timeline.
- compiled more than 194 records of Top 100 target species found within the LAFF project timeline. Some of these are from species which are turning out to be more locally common than we thought (e.g. *Mollisia fuscoparaphysata* and *Polystigma rubrum*), but that's what the project is trying to find out!
- received at least a further 115 records from before the LAFF project started, which are not yet available in the FRDBI.

Given that these are some of the most rarely reported fungi in Britain and Ireland, I think that is pretty good going. The hard work has been done entirely by our volunteers and contributors (plus Paul Cannon and Martyn Ainsworth), so many thanks to everyone who has helped in the project so far!

## Species to look for

As you can see if you consult our online map and filter by **FruitingMar** (or **FruitingApr** for April), at least 14 of our target species may be fruiting in March. If they're fruiting near you, please bear these species in mind if you're out and about.

One species we would like to draw people's attention to, in particular, is *Vankya ornithogali* (species page here: [link](#)). This species is a smut on leaves of *Gagea lutea* ("Yellow Star of Bethlehem") which has a limited fruiting period of February to May.

Finding the host may be the tricky part of this search, but if you find a smut on the leaves that will almost certainly be our target species. A rare rust (*Uromyces gageae*) can also be found on the leaves (see Martyn Ainsworth's images in the *V. ornithogali* media tab on the species page), and if you're especially lucky you may see both...

Other than that, I hope our online map will provide some suggestions of what to search for and where, wherever you are in the UK or Ireland.



*Vankya ornithogali* on a leaf of *Gagea lutea*, image © S. Taylor.

I think that is all for now!

Best regards,

Brian Douglas

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