

Troopers Hill Foray: 5 November 2017

The Foray on 5 November concentrated on the grassland areas. It was led by John Bailey and supported by members of the North Somerset and Bristol Fungus Group, several Friends of Troopers Hill (<http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/>) and considerable numbers of the Public, most of whom were attending their first ever Fungus Foray.

Nearly 40 species were found, including several Waxcaps and Spindles (Clavarioids). The most common Waxcap was *Hygrocybe laeta* which was found in much larger quantities than in previous years, in several distinct locations both on the higher and lower slopes of the hill. Although no Earth Tongues were found this year, two of the more unusual Clavarioids, *Clavulinopsis laeticolor* and *C. luteoalba* were present.

The CHEG score (Clavaria, Hygrocybe, Entoloma and Geoglossum) was similar to previous years (14), a number largely based on the presence of 11 species of Waxcap, confirming that Trooper's Hill is an excellent grassland fungi site, especially in view of its urban location.

Management of the site should be maintained as in previous years with emphasis on preventing incursion of shrubs onto the grassland and reducing the amount of contamination from dogs.

1. Regular mowing/scything of the important grassland areas, including late season mowing to restrict the height of the grasses which should encourage fungal fruiting.
2. Dog waste appeared to be more common than in previous years. Owners should be encouraged to remove waste. The high nitrogen levels and acidity associated with such waste will have a long term deleterious effect on most of the grassland (CHEG) fungi.
3. It was noticed that various shrubs, especially gorse and heather, had begun to encroach on to the grassland. As a priority, these should be removed.

List of Species:

A recent taxonomic re-analysis of Waxcap fungi has led to a updated view of their taxonomy. Where relevant the newer names are listed in brackets

Amanita muscaria – under birch
Bolbitius titubans – single specimen
Bovista plumbea – single specimen
Clavulinopsis helvola - common
Clavulinopsis laeticolor – several specimens
Clavulinopsis luteoalba - several specimens
Clitocybe rivulosa – single specimen
Cortinarius (Dermocybe) uliginosus several specimens
Entoloma conferendum – a few specimens
Erysiphe alphitoides – on leaves of small oak saplings
Galerina atkinsoniana
Galerina mniophila var. *mniophila* – This may have been previously listed as *Galerina hypnorum*
Galerina vittiformis
Hygrocybe ceracea – several specimens
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Hygrocybe conica – several specimens
Hygrocybe laeta – large numbers –the most common Waxcap in the grassland
Hygrocybe miniata – several specimens
Hygrocybe mucronella – several specimens
Hygrocybe pratensis (Cuphophyllus pratensis) – considerable numbers, scattered over grassland
Hygrocybe psittacina (Gliophorus psittacinus) – a single specimen
Hygrocybe reidii - frequent

Hygrocybe russocoriacea – a few specimens
Hygrocybe virginea (*Cuphophyllus virgineus*) – scattered over grassland
Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca – single specimen
Laccaria laccata – at edge of woodland
Mycena aetites
Mycena epipterygia
Mycena leptocephala
Mycena olivaceomarginata – single specimen
Pleurotus ostreatus – single specimen on *Betula*
Psilocybe subviscida var. *subviscida* – several specimens
Rickenella fibula – single specimen
Scleroderma areolatum - several specimens
Scleroderma citrinum – several specimens
Scleroderma verrucosum
Xylaria hypoxylon – on a stump