

Poronia punctata

During a walk around Congresbury on July 14, J and D came across various livery stables beside the River Yeo. At one site, where horse manure had been cleared from a paddock and piled up beside the path, were some white fruiting bodies which instinct said were *Poronia punctata* (Nail Fungus). A few samples were collected and examined at home. As the photographs show, the upper surface of the discs were pale cream, the stems were darker brown. However, the upper surface did not have any dark spots typical of the perithecia which are emphasised in most illustrations in books and on the Internet. These “nails” are the basis for its common name. This was a little concerning but a quick email to MJ confirmed that perithecia are not always present and the pictures I had taken were in fact a good illustration of how this fungus is often found.

Poronia punctata is now considered a rare fungus in the UK and was not one we had seen before. In the UK, the New Forest is where the fungus is most commonly seen. 90% of all UK records (CATE2) are from this forest. Modern chemicals used in the 'worming' of horses are thought to explain the demise of Nail Fungus across much of Europe. This discovery is the first record for North Somerset.



Anthracobia melaloma

An ascomycete typically found, as here on Walton Common, on the soil of fire sites. It is distinguishable for *A. macrocystis* by the size of the ascospores, 15-22 cf with 16-18u and longer hairs at the edge of the cup



***Megacollybia platyphylla* (aka *Clitocybula platyphylla*)**

Another very common early summer species found on the woodland floor or sometimes on well decayed logs. The fibrillose cap and mycelial cords are diagnostic. These samples were found and photographed by Cat in Tan Pit Woods. We have also seen some on Walton Common

