

Tyntesfield Audit, 20 April 2023

Although the Audit was in many ways typical of previous spring Audits, it was in other ways quite remarkable. Three unusual species were found. One, *Verpa conica*, a small rare morel (only one record in North Somerset in the last 10 years), was found growing in waste sawdust. This is a new species for Tyntesfield. Another was a different morel, *Morchella esculenta*, and, as in the previous three months, we found more examples of *Geastrum britannicum*. The latter is now known at three distinct sites, all under yews, even though it had never been seen in any of the previous 20 years. More details are provided along with images below.

One species that is a reliable indication of spring is *Calocybe gambosa* (St. Georges Mushroom), which appeared at the appropriate time and at many of the sites where it has been recorded previously.

The most attractive fungus was a species of *Pluteus*, a genus that is well represented at Tyntesfield. Whenever we find a such a fungus our thoughts go quickly to two species, *P. chrysophaeus* (common) and *P. leoninus* (rare). As on all previous occasions this turned out to be *P. chrysophaeus*. Our hunt for *P. leoninus* continues.

Several species found during the Audit are illustrated below. Many thanks to John Roberts, a visitor and latterly a member of the Warwickshire Fungus Group, for his excellent photographs.

Bjerkandera adusta
Calocybe gambosa
Coprinellus micaceus
Daldinia concentrica
Ganoderma australe
Geastrum britannicum
Hypholoma fasciculare
Hypoxylon fragiforme
Kretzschmaria deusta
Kuehneromyces mutabilis
Lycogala epidendrum

Marasmius oreades
Melampsora populnea
Morchella esculenta
Panaeolus fimicola
Pluteus chrysophaeus
Pycnostysanus azaleae
Ramularia ari
Trametes gibbosa
Verpa conica

Verpa conica (Thimble Morel): an unusual spring fungus found in soil enriched by sawdust in Plantation. A species new to Tyntesfield. Photo John Roberts



Morchella esculenta (Morel): a typical spring fungus found under Dog’s Mercury in Plantation. Only the third time this species has been seen at Tyntesfield..



Geastrum britannicum (Vaulted Earthstar): the third location for this very unusual Earthstar, all associated with Yew. (photo John Roberts)



Pluteus chrysophaeus (Yellow Shield): one of two bright yellow *Pluteus* species. This one is distinguished from *Pluteus leoninus* by having a cuticle composed of globose cells. The cap of *Pluteus leoninus* has elongated cells. Photo John Roberts



Hypholoma fasciculare (Sulphur Tuft): several examples were found growing on piled logs in Plantation.



Pararge aegeria (Speckled Wood): another sign of spring, enjoying the warm sunshine.

