

Tyntesfield Audit, 23 March 2022

Coprinellus micaceus (*Glistening Inkcap*): showing extensive mica deposits on the cap surface. This species is probably the most regular species found at Tyntesfield throughout the year.



A dry March had not encouraged the production of many fruiting bodies. Three types of “little brown fungus” were, however, common - *Panaeolus fimicola*, *Pholiotina aporos* and *Psathyrella spadiceogrisea*. The latter is always common at Tyntesfield in Spring and can be quite large. However, the samples found today (see below) were generally small and often in poor condition. Identification was confirmed by analysis of the cystidia on the gill edge.

The most interesting species was *Rosellinia britannica* (see below). The nipple-shaped fruiting bodies were typical of the *Rosellinia* genus, of which two are common in the UK: *R. mammiformis* and *R. aquila*. Both have been found at Tyntesfield. It would have been very easy to assume these samples were one of these. However, examination of the spores obtained from the perithecia revealed that the spores were 25 -28 μ long. This is much greater than the two original suspects. A search of the literature came up with a French research paper in which only one species of *Rosellinia* had spores this large - *R. britannica*. Comparison with National Databases revealed that *R. britannica* has been recorded in the UK, but with many fewer records than the other species. Is it really rare or have the spores of other examples not been thoroughly examined and hence wrongly identified?

The species found are listed below, along with some images.

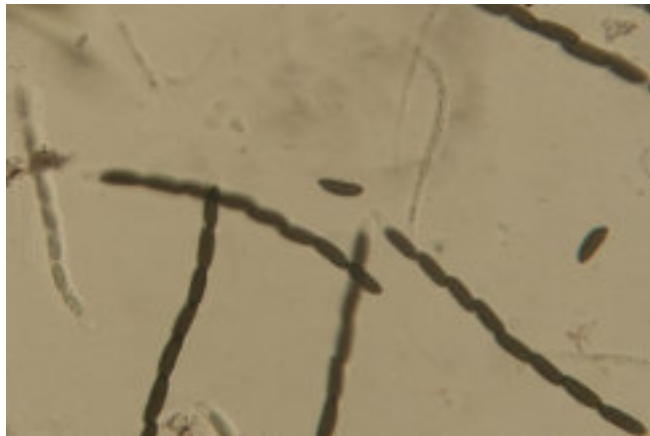
List of Fungi

Clitocybe fragrans
Coprinellus micaceus
Daldinia concentrica
Hymenochaete rubiginosa
Hypochnicium geogenium
Panaeolus fimicola
Peziza micropus
Phellinus ferruginosus

Pholiotina aporos
Psathyrella spadiceogrisea
Puccinia buxi
Puccinia sessilis
Pycnostysanus azaleae
Rigidoporus populinus
Rosellinia britannica
Sarcoscypha austriaca

Sphaeropsis visci
Stemonitis sp.
Trametes gibbosa
Trametes versicolor

Rosellinia britannica: small (1-3mm) black nipple-shaped perithecia on a fallen branch. Inside are many asci containing large ascospores (25 -29 μ), which lack appendages. This species is probably not uncommon in the UK, though it is rarely recorded. We have recorded it once before at Tyntesfield in 2016.



***Psathyrella spadiceogrisea* (Spring Brittlestem)**: examples of this species were seen throughout the Estate. Many, like those illustrated below, were not in prime condition. Identification was confirmed by observing the capitate cystidia on the gill edge.



Sphaeropsis (Phaeobotryosphaeria) visci: a leaf spot disease on mature leaves of Mistletoe (below left). This has been seen at Tyntesfield before in 2015 and 2019. Elsewhere it is probably under-recorded.

Ozonium (below right). A few species of *Coprinellus* (Inkcaps) produce shaggy orange carpets, known as ozonium, on the surface of fallen branches. Fruitbodies often arise from the ozonium, but the ozonium is much longer lasting than the fruitbodies, so it is often found, as here, with no evidence of the mushrooms themselves. In the absence of fruiting bodies, identification of the species involved was not possible.



Hypochnicium geogenium: present as a large expanse of “white paint” on fallen branches. Such fungi are usually hard to identify. In this case. The surface cracking was characteristic and identification was confirmed by analysis of the spores it produced.

