Tyntesfield Audit, 23 November 2022

As in October, we started the Audit in Paradise and then moved to the lawns in order to assess the development of the Waxcaps and other grassland fungi, which can be such a major feature of the Lawns below the house. After examining the lawns we managed a visit to the upper woodlands. The extent of the grassland fungi is described below. However, on this occasion the most notable species was an Earthstar growing below one of the ornamental Yews When first observed it looked like many other Earthstars, with a rounded spore sac, a fibrous "beak" (peristome) and several large white legs (above left). A most remarkable transformation occurred when it was dried (above right). This revealed six legs, a distinct neck, all supported by a complex mycelial nest. Coupled with an assessment of spore dimensions these characteristics readily identified it as *Geastrum britannicum*, It is a rare species, first identified in the UK about 15 years ago. Since then there has been the occasional record mostly in East Anglia. This was the first time we had seen it at Tyntesfield.

List of Fungi: notes on other species are shown below

Ascocoryne sarcoides
Auricularia auricula-judae
Bulgaria inquinans
Byssomerulius corium
Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa
Chlorophyllum rhacodes
Chondrostereum purpureum
Clavulina cinerea
Clavulinopsis corniculata
Clavulinopsis helvola
Clitocybe fragrans
Clitocybe geotropa
Clitocybe nebularis
Clitocybe phaeophthalma
Clitocybe rivulosa
Coprinellus micaceus
Cordyceps militaris
Crepidotus mollis
Cuphophyllus pratensis
Cuphophyllus virgineus
Cuphophyllus v. var. ochraceopallidus
Cystoderma amianthinum
Dermoloma cuneifolium
Entoloma atromadidum
Entoloma carneogriseum
Entoloma sericeum
Exidia thuretiana
Flammulina velutipes
Geastrum britannicum
Gliophorus irrigatus
Gliophorus psittacinus
Gymnopilus junonius
Gymnopilus penetrans
Gymnopus dryophilus
Gymnopus peronatus
Helminthosphaeria clavariarum
Hygrocybe ceracea
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Hygrocybe coccinea
Hygrocybe conica
Hygrocybe insipida
Hygrocybe punicea
Hygrocybe reidii
Hymenopellis radicata
Hypholoma fasciculare
Inocybe geophylla
Laccaria laccata
Lactarius fulvissimus
Lepiota cristata
Lepista flaccida
Lepista nuda
Lepista sordida
Lycoperdon perlatum
Lycoperdon pratense
Lycoperdon pyriforme
Marasmius oreades
Marasmius rotula
Melanoleuca polioleuca
Mucidula mucida
Mucilago crustacea
Mycena flavoalba
Mycena galericulata
Mycena pearsoniana
Mycena pura
Peziza micropus
Pholiota squarrosa
Pluteus cervinus
Pluteus pouzarianus
Polyporus leptocephalus
Polyporus squamosus
Postia caesia
Ramaria stricta
Russula chloroides
Russula ochroleuca
Russula parazurea
Scleroderma citrinum
Stereum hirsutum
Stereum subtomentosum
Stropharia caerulea
Stropharia inuncta
Trametes gibbosa
Trametes versicolor
Tremella mesenterica
Trichaptum abietinum
Tubaria furfuracea
Xylaria cinerea
Xylaria hypoxylon

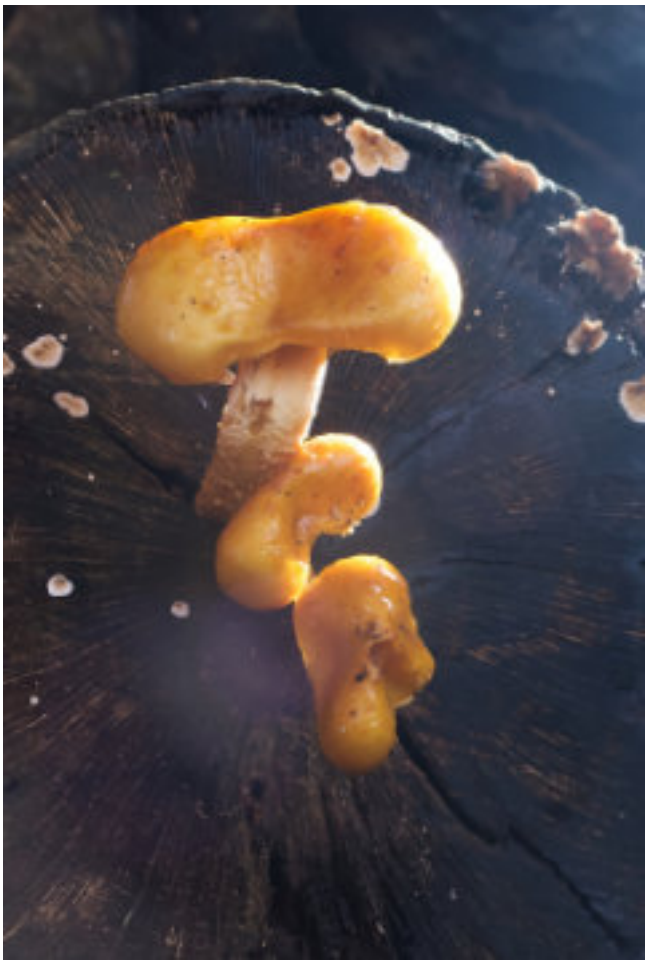
Twelve species of Waxcap fungi were seen, though the numbers of fruiting bodies were less than expected. *Cuphophyllus virgineus* (Snowy Waxcap) and *C. pratensis* (Meadow Waxcap) were most common, with good examples of Scarlet Waxcaps, ***Hygrocybe coccinea*** (below). Other examples were scattered across the lawns

Several examples of ***Entoloma atromadidum*** (E. bloxamii) were seen. Most were at the traditional site but one was discovered at a new site near the Chapel

Mycena pearsoniana. This fungus has often been identified as *Mycena pura*, the common Lilac Bonnet. On first viewing, *M. pearsoniana* looks very like M. pura, but examination of its gills show that they are decurrent, i.e. running down the stem. The gills of *M. pura* are clearly adnate.

Peziza micropus (Pedicel Cup). This Ascomycete is often found at Tyntesfield on felled wood. When mature it frequently appears to be untidy with large flat open cups/saucers (below left). On this occasion, the mature structures were accompanied by some young, truly cup-shaped, structures (below right).

Pholliota squarrosa (Shaggy Scalycap). This was found growing at the end of felled wood at the top of the Estate



Species of Pluteus are a feature of the Tyntesfield Estate. The commonest species are *P. cervinus* and *P. salicinus*. On this occasion, we found a Pluteus growing on a felled conifer log. Microscopic examination of the cells on cap surface revealed that there were clamps (swollen junctions) between cells (see below). This is diagnostic for *Pluteus pouzarianus,* one of the much less common species.

Xylaria cinerea. Another of the rarer fungi found at Tyntesfield. This species is, at present, a reliable feature of a felled log in Plantation