

Tyntesfield Audit, 23 February 2023

Although the number of species found during this Audit remained low, we were, at last, able to find and examine some non-frozen, actively-growing fungi. The most common species were *Coprinellus micaceus* (Glistening Inkcap), *Mollisia cinerea* (Grey Disco) and *Sarcoscypha austriaca* (Scarlet Elfcup). Although the latter is a striking contribution to the the early spring fungi, its precise identification requires detailed study (see below). The list of fungi found can be seen below, along with images and comments on some of them..

Auricularia auricula-judae
Bjerkandera adusta
Clitocybe fragrans
Coprinellus micaceus
Cordyceps militaris
Daldinia concentrica
Flammulina velutipes
Hypholoma fasciculare
Kretzschmaria deusta
Lepista nuda
Lycoperdon pyriforme
Mollisia cinerea

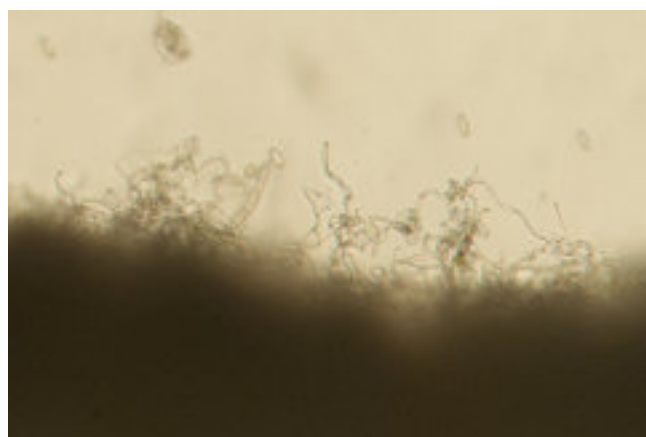
Nectria cinnabarina
Psathyrella spadiceogrisea
Sarcoscypha austriaca
Stereum hirsutum
Stereum subtomentosum
Trametes versicolor
Trichia decipiens
Tubaria furfuracea
Xylaria carpophila
Xylaria cinerea
Xylaria hypoxylon

Scarlet Elfcup (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*).

An ascomycete (cup fungus) that is found on old, often mossy logs. The problem is to distinguish *S. austriaca* from *S. coccinea*. This requires careful microscopy to reveal the nature of the hairs on the lower surface of the "cup" and also the shape of the spores. The samples found today all had curly hairs and blunt-ended spores, so firmly establishing them as *S. austriaca*.



The lower surface of the cups showed hairs that were distinctly curly.



The spores were clearly blunt-ended.



Scarlet Caterpillar Club Fungus (*Cordyceps militaris*)

A small club fungus that parasitises the underground pupae of moths. It is often seen on the Tyntesfield lawns, but this sample was found at the base of a tree in Plantation.



Grey Disco (*Mollisia cinera*).

A small cup fungus growing in profusion on the cut ends of felled logs in Plantation..



Glistening Inkcap (*Coprinellus micaceus*)

Many examples were found in the piles of old logs in Plantation. Note the glistening mica particles on the cap surface.



Sulphur Tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*)

The most commonly reported fungus in the UK. An early example was found growing in grass, presumably on an underlying piece of rotting wood.



Spring Brittlestem (*Psathyrella spadiceogrisea*)

One of the few gilled fungi that were found during the Audit. We have seen it many times over the last few years.



Beechmast Candlesnuff (*Xylaria carpophila*)

There are three very common species of Xylaria on the Estate - *X. hypoxylon*, *X. longipes* and *X. polymorpha*. Less common are *X. cinerea*, a species that was only recently recorded in the UK, but is now spreading rapidly, and the Beechmast Candlesnuff fungus. This is a very graceful species, typically with white tips, that grows on ageing beech seeds (beech mast.)

