

## Tyntesfield Audit, 24 April 2024

Although there were again very few fungi seen on the Estate, there were some that were both interesting and surprising.

In Plantation, we observed a few species including several plant pathogens, but the commonest fungus was *Coprinellus micaceus*, which, as on many previous occasions, was found in several places under log piles.

The Audit became more interesting when our attention was drawn to a beech tree at the top of Five Ways Combe, which had large areas of black staining on its trunk. This staining was shown to contain a red pigment. Although samples were not examined further, the appearance of the tree, along with the red-staining of the fungus were diagnostic for *Phytophthora kernoviae*, the cause of Phytophthora Bleeding Canker, a notifiable plant disease.

Shortly afterwards, Phil noticed a large bracket fungus high up on the trunk of a cedar in Tyntesfield Park, on a tree with noticeable damage to its crown. Due to its height above ground we were unable to identify this species, but perhaps a sample can be obtained at a future date. Whilst taking photographs of this fungus (see below), we found the most surprising fungus of the Audit - *Amanita rubescens* (The Blusher) growing beneath the same cedar tree. Surprising? - because this species is normally seen only in the autumn!

There was one new record for Tyntesfield - Bluebell Rust (*Uromyces muscari*). This is a common species in SW England, but despite careful observation over many years it had never been seen here before.

Finally one disappointment. In moist rotten wood under a fallen beech tree we observed several beautiful examples of a yellow/orange *Pluteus* species. There are two such coloured *Pluteus* species in the UK, one is common and one is rare. As on many previous occasions at Tyntesfield, this was shown to be the common one (*Pluteus chrysophaeus*), which is readily identified by examining the cells of the cuticle of the fruiting body - they are globose (see below). The hunt for *P. leoninus* goes on.

**A list of species is shown below, along with illustrations of the more interesting species of the Audit.**

*Bolbitius titubans*  
*Amanita rubescens*  
*Auricularia auricula-judae*  
*Calocybe gambosa*  
*Coprinellus micaceus*  
*Geastrum britannicum*  
*Hymenochaete rubiginosa*  
*Hypholoma fasciculare*  
*Hypoxylon fragiforme*  
*Kuehneola uredinis*  
*Lycogala epidendrum*

*Phoma samararum*  
*Phytophthora kernoviae*  
*Pluteus cervinus*  
*Pluteus chrysophaeus*  
*Psathyrella candolleana*  
*Puccinia buxi*  
*Puccinia sessilis*  
*Ramularia ari*  
*Uromyces muscari*

***Amanita rubescens***: a large example of The Blusher (15cm across) growing beneath a cedar in Tyntesfield Park



Unidentified bracket fungus seen 4-6m above ground on a mature cedar in Tyntesfield Park



*Hypholoma fasciculare*: Sulphur Tuft at the base of a log pile.

*Coprinellus micaceus*: Glistening Inkcaps at the base of a log pile.



*Pluteus chrysophaeus*: a bright yellow/orange fungus found on a decaying beech log. Note the diagnostic globose cells in the cuticle of the cap surface.

