

## Tyntesfield Audit, 2 September 2025

As a consequence of the prolonged summer drought and the resultant scarcity of fungi, we had not visited Tyntesfield since early June. However, after some recent slight rainfall, there was a little optimism at the beginning of the Audit. Only the two species of *Marasmius* were found in litter. All the other species identified were growing on decayed wood or as pathogens on leaves..

The most notable species, *Phaeolus schweinitzii*, was found by Phil in Farm Plantation. We had only ever seen this species twice before at Tyntesfield. It is known as Dyer's Mazegill because of its ability to dye yarn. Depending on which metallic mordant is used, the colour obtained can range from yellow to orange or brown. It is a serious parasite of conifers and can cause significant economic losses to forestry enterprises.

A list of all the fungi identified is shown below, along with photographs and notes about some of the more interesting species.

*Calocera cornea*  
*Cerioporus leptcephalus*  
*Crepidotus mollis*  
*Cyathus striatus*  
*Erysiphe heraclei*  
*Fomitopsis betulina*  
*Ganoderma adspersum*  
*Gymnopus dryophilus*  
*Lycogala epidendrum*  
*Marasmius epiphyllus*

*Marasmius rotula*  
*Parasola conopilus*  
*Phaeolus schweinitzii*  
*Phallus impudicus*  
*Pluteus cervinus*  
*Pluteus chrysophaeus*  
*Polyporus squamosus*  
*Rhytisma acerinum*  
*Stereum hirsutum*  
*Trametes versicolor*

*Xylaria longipes*  
*Xylaria cinerea*

***Phaeolus schweinitzii*** (Dyer's Mazegill): occurred at the base of a mature conifer in Farm Plantation



***Cyathus striatus*** (Fluted Bird's Nest): found deep under a large pile of logs at the top of Paradise. This is not an unusual species, but due to its overall appearance, which so easily blends with its surroundings, it is not often reported.



***Xylaria longipes*** (Dead Moll's Fingers): found growing on a felled log. These structures (stroma) were very tough and about 5cm tall. This species can only be reliably distinguished from *Xylaria polymorpha* (Dead Man's Fingers) by examining the spores.



*Parasola conopilus* (Conical Brittlestem): a species typically found either in woodland litter or, as here, emerging from extremely well-rotted timbers



*Pluteus cervinus* (Deer Shield): a very common species at Tyntesfield, emerging from rotten wood

