

## Tyntesfield Audit, 20 March 2025

The weather had continued to be cool and dry - not ideal for the development of spring fungi. Only 13 species were identified. None were present in large numbers, though there was an extensive growth of *Psathyrella piluliformis* inside a fallen, well-rotted trunk of an old Monkey Puzzle in Warren Plantation. Many samples were highly dehydrated. Two old favourites, *Sarcoscypha austriaca* and *Coprinellus micaceus* were also seen.

A small orange clustered fruit body, that had all the appearance of a slime mould, was spotted on rotting logs. Careful examination revealed its true identity - *Bactridium flavum* (see below): a good example of the value of simple microscopy.

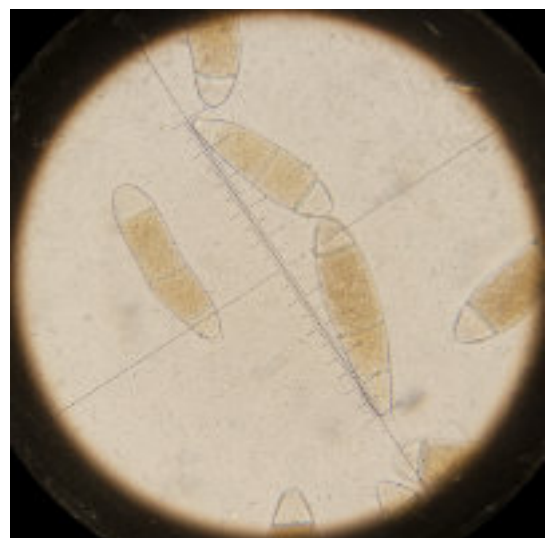
A list of the fungi found is shown below, along with notes and photographs of some of the more interesting species.

*Bactridium flavum*  
*Coprinellus micaceus*  
*Fuligo septica*  
*Geastrum michelianum*  
*Gymnopus dryophilus*

*Kretzschmaria deusta*  
*Lachnum virgineum*  
*Panellus stipticus*  
*Psathyrella piluliformis*  
*Puccinia buxi*

*Sarcoscypha austriaca*  
*Skeletocutis nivea*  
*Stereum hirsutum*

***Bactridium flavum***: small (2mm) orange cushions growing on well-rotted wood within a pile of rotten logs. Careful examination of the material revealed it consisted of masses of large (100 - 150 $\mu$ ) multi-celled spores)



***Lachnum virgineum* (Snowy Disco):** several examples of this beautiful discomycete were found on dead wood throughout the woodland.



***Psathyrella piluliformis* (Common Stump Brittlestem):** a large population was discovered inside the rotting trunk of a felled Monkey Puzzle. This is a typical Brittlestem, with a firm white stem and dark spores, which in this species are, unusually for Psathyrellas, very small (6-8 $\mu$ ).



***Coprinellus micaeus (Glistening Ink Cap)***: a perfect example was found growing under trees on the lower lawn below the house, presumably on buried wood. The tan-coloured cap has a striate surface and is covered in white grains, “mica”

