

Tyntesfield Audit, 26 February 2025

Despite the continuing cool weather we found a surprisingly large number of fungi - 26 different species. Some were present in large numbers scattered across the Estate, including *Clitocybe fragrans* and *Tubaria furfuracea* in most of the grassy areas. Notable species were *Flavolaschia calocera*, *Lachnum niveum* and *Psathyrella prona*. Two plant pathogens were seen to be having a serious effect on their hosts. *Seifertia azaleae* was growing on many buds of a Rhododendron near the House Entrance. Such infections kill the buds and prevent flowering.

Pestalotiopsis funerea continues to have a very damaging effect on the Wollemi Pine in Paradise.

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

<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	<i>Gymnopilus penetrans</i>
<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	<i>Kretzschmaria deusta</i>
<i>Byssomerulius corium</i>	<i>Lachnum niveum</i>
<i>Clitocybe fragrans</i>	<i>Panellus stipticus</i>
<i>Coprinellus micaceus</i>	<i>Pestalotiopsis funerea</i>
<i>Crepidotus applanatus</i>	<i>Psathyrella prona</i>
<i>Entoloma hirtipes</i>	<i>Puccinia buxi</i>
<i>Entoloma vernum</i>	<i>Sarcoscypha austriaca</i>
<i>Exidia nucleata</i>	<i>Seifertia azaleae</i>
<i>Exidia thuretiana</i>	<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>
<i>Favolaschia calocera</i>	<i>Stereum subtomentosum</i>
<i>Galerina clavata</i>	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>
<i>Gastrum britannicum</i>	<i>Tubaria furfuracea</i>
<i>Gastrum michelianum</i>	

***Favolaschia calocera* (often referred to as the Ping Pong Bat Fungus):** This very young example was seen on a pile of dead branches in Farm Plantation.

Globally, *F. calocera* has become a highly invasive species. It was first observed in Madagascar in 1945 and has been present in New Zealand since the 1950s. It has recently spread around the world. In 1999 it was first found in Europe (Italy), then Spain in 2004. It was first found in Great Britain in 2012 and in 2013 it was sighted in Portugal. In 2015 it was seen in France and Switzerland. In 2019 it appeared in Belgium and then in November 2020 in the Netherlands. We first saw it in Cornwall in 2018. In September 2023 it was first recorded on the Isle of Man. Our first sighting in Tyntesfield was in November 2024.



Geastrum michelianum (Collared Earth Star): several young examples were seen in Plantation



Pestalotiopsis funerea (Conifer Tip Blight and Dieback): this pathogen has been active on the Wollemi Pine in Plantation for many years. The severity of infection appears to vary over time. As in this year the most pronounced symptoms seem to be associated with cooler damp weather. The fungus is interesting. On the leaf it produces small black erumpent structures which contain the spores. These spores are very unusual, being quite large, with a flagellum at each end - one very long and one quite short.

