

## Tyntesfield Audit, 8 May 2025

The drought continued, both in respect of rainfall and lack of fungi. No matter which part of the countryside we have examined this year, the number of fungi seen has been very low. Often there were no fungi found at all, so it was a pleasant surprise to find a few fungi at Tyntesfield, though many fewer than in previous years. The logpile revealed a few common species including a small but beautiful example of Dryad's Saddle (*Polyporus squamosus*). It was also notable that very few plant pathogens were present. In the past Tyntesfield has always been a reliable source of St George's Mushrooms (*Calocybe gambosa*), but this year we found only one example. It was, in fact, the only example we have seen anywhere this Spring. As indicated in the illustrations below, the flowers and shrubs on the Estate were spectacular.

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

*Calocybe gambosa*  
*Daldinia concentrica*  
*Ganoderma adspersum*  
*Hypoxylon fragiforme*  
*Kretzschmaria deusta*

*Kuehneola uredinis*  
*Polyporus squamosus*  
*Puccinia sessilis*  
*Stereum hirsutum*  
*Trametes versicolor*

***Polyporus squamosus*** (Dryad's Saddle): a small example, 10cm across, was seen within the upper log pile



***Aesculus flava* (Yellow Buckeye).** This magnificent Chestnut tree was in full flower beside the lower drive. In the background is the spectacular planting of Rhododendrons in the field below the house.



***Orobanche flava* (Yellow Broomrape).** A single example of this unusual parasitic plant was seen beside the upper track. Like many parasitic fungi, this plant, which lacks chlorophyll, invades the tissues (roots) of its host, which thus provides most of its essential nutrients.

