

Joint BFG / HBFG foray at Carpenters Wood  
January 6<sup>th</sup> 2013

Report by Penny Cullington

A merry band of 12 of us, a good mix from both groups, set out for our first foray of the new year. The damp conditions and lack of recent frost meant that we were likely to come across a reasonable representation of the species commonly met with at this time of year, and this proved to be the case. Nothing of tremendous note was collected but we listed nearly 60 species though these were mostly non-gilled fungi: brackets, jelly fungi, corticioids and a few slime moulds. Of the gilled fungi found, it was good to see an amazingly fresh and typical specimen of *Russula ochroleuca* (Yellow Brittlegill) – I don't remember seeing this in January before. Various assorted singleton *Mycenas* (Bonnetcaps) on wood and in litter turned out to belong to just three species: *Mycena arcangeliana* (Angel's Bonnet), *M. galericulata* (Common Bonnet) and – the most prolific, *M. vitilis* (Snapping Bonnet). *Tubaria furfuracea* was collected from several different spots, with singletons of *Collybia butyracea* (Butter Cap), *Laccaria laccata* (The Deceiver) and *L. amethystina* (Amethyst Deceiver) also found, together with two gilled brackets: the fairly common *Panellus stipticus* (Bitter Oysterling) and the much less common *P. serotinus* (Olive Oysterling) – often a late season species. Fresh specimens of *Hydnum repandum* (Wood Hedgehog) were something of a surprise, but the *Ganoderma* which appeared to be of the lacquered sort refused to yield any spores thus defying my powers of identification. Two *Myxomycetes* (commonly known as slime moulds) also defeated me and went to expert Bruce Ing; one turned out to be of interest, being new to Hertfordshire: *Diderma globosum*. (This wood was until relatively recently in Bucks but changed when the village of Chorleywood, previously split by the county boundary, was assigned entirely to Herts.) Another slime mould which was fruiting prolifically and present in various degrees of development growing over the ends of a pile of felled Larch trunks was recognisable in the field as *Leocarpus fragilis*. These organisms which are separate from fungi are not given the benefit of common English names, though this one when mature looks so like miniature bunches of dates that it would not be difficult to create one. Below is a photo of a collection approaching maturity.



*Leocarpus fragilis* approaching maturity on a Larch trunk  
at Carpenters Wood. Photo Neil Fletcher.

For more details see the complete list.