

Joint BFG / BBOWT Foray at Finemere Woods on Sept 30th 2012

Penny Cullington

A group of nine of us, a mix from the two different societies, enjoyed a fine (no pun intended!) morning at this SSSI site comprising mixed deciduous trees and also some pine with wide well-maintained rides designed to encourage butterflies for which the site is well-known. Straying off the main paths is, however, limited by the ditches and undergrowth at times, but we were suitably surprised to find a reasonable number of fruiting bodies despite the very poor season being experienced so far in the south of the country.

A total of just under 60 species were recorded, of which 23 were new to the site (this reflecting the limited amount of recording so far done here at this time of year rather than the rarity of the finds). A few things of note turned up, however: The only *Russula* (Brittle-gill) of the day, a rather battered and dry pale pink specimen collected by Claudi Soler, conveniently turned bright chrome yellow where damaged by the time I checked it at home, thus giving away the telltale signs of *R. luteotacta*. With only a couple of previous county records, this species is found with deciduous trees in heavy clay soils which this site clearly provided. Another nice find by Claudi was a small bright purple mushroom growing on wood which might at first glance have been mistaken for the often common *Laccaria amethystina* (Amethyst Deceiver) which was also collected here today. However, growing on wood and with a different 'jizz' I recalled that there existed an unusual species of *Entoloma* (Pinkgill) which this might well be, and later Derek tracked down this species, *Entoloma euchroum*, for which our specimen was a perfect match – this a new record for the county.

Some nice edibles were collected: *Agaricus silvicola* (Wood Mushroom) and *Agaricus silvatica* (Blushing Wood Mushroom). The names (both Latin and English) of these two reasonably common woodland species are easily confusable, though they look entirely different, the first having a smooth white cap which yellows where damaged, and the second having a brown scaly cap which reddens where damaged. Both are equally delicious when fried with bacon, however!

The majority of the list, however, comprised species growing on fallen wood rather than soil, with 10 different species of *Mycena* (Bonnetcap), 3 of *Pluteus* (Shield), and a few brackets and black crusts, etc. Derek later managed to solve the mystery fungus which he found when searching around amongst the grass stems beside the carpark before we set off - a mass of yellowish fungal matter spreading over the base of the vegetation, superficially not unlike a slime mould but developing fine pores. This was *Leucogyrophana mollusca*, a species previously recorded here growing on conifer wood though known to spread in this way over adjacent vegetation.

See the complete list for details.