

NEW AND INTERESTING FUNGI, ISLE OF WIGHT, 2024

Colin Pope

2024 was generally considered to be a poor year for fungi, despite the prevalence of damp weather. This appears to be contrary to what would be expected, but the pattern has been consistent across the country and shows how unpredictable fungi can be. Even normally common and widespread fungi were sometimes thin on the ground. The only exception was for grassland fungi which did well in the second half of the autumn. In addition, Iain Outlaw has been highly productive, investigating micro-fungi which have been little studied and poorly recorded in the past. He was able to record eleven species seen for the first time on the Island.

* denotes first IW record

AGARICS (Agariomycetes)

Marasmius hudsonii

This small, yet spectacular Parachute fungus has projecting, long stiff red-brown hairs on the white cap and reddish-brown stem. It is easily identified because it only grows on fallen, dead Holly leaves in damp woodland. It is not common, but we record it from time to time in ancient woodlands. However, on our autumn foray in Borthwood Copse we saw a remarkable mass fruiting of this species (mo det. CRP). (Fig. 1)



Fig. 1: *Marasmius hudsonii* on holly leaf, Borthwood Copse.
Photo: Mike Cotterill

**Hortiboletus bulbalinus*

This bolete has only been recognised relatively recently, and it appears to be quite widespread in southern England. It has very distinctive colours, especially when cut. A single specimen was found during a foray in Ryde Cemetery on 7th November (mo, det. CRP) (Fig. 2). Material was sent to Aberystwyth for DNA sequencing courtesy of Eric Janke of the Hampshire Fungus Recording Group but unfortunately the sample was contaminated and yielded no useful information.

Suillus luridus Lurid Bolete

Found on Afton Down on 1st June growing with Rock-rose (*Helianthemum*) (CRP). One of a group of fungi associated with deciduous trees but also found growing with Rock-rose on downland. (Fig. 3)

Clavulinopsis umbrinella

One of our less frequently recorded club fungi found growing in Northwood Park, Cowes on 8th December (mo, det. CRP). (Fig. 4). It was recorded in the picnic area, a site of good old grassland with earthtongues, waxcaps and club fungi. Eight waxcaps including Pink Waxcap were recorded.



Fig. 2: *Hortiboletus bulbalinus*, Ryde Cemetery.
Photo: Colin Pope

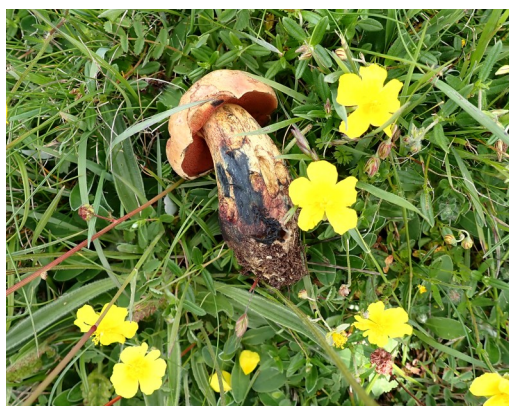


Fig. 3: *Suillus luridus* on Afton Down. Photo: Colin Pope



Fig. 4: *Clavulinopsis umbrinella*, Northwood Park
Photo: Colin Pope

MICROFUNGI.

**Puccinia chaerophylli*

A rust fungus found growing on Cow Parsley (*Anthriscussylvestris*) in Appley Park on 13th January (IO).

**Physalacria stilboidea*

This microfungus is only found on dead leaves of New Zealand Broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*). When Iain Outlaw became aware of this, he looked at dead leaves of a *Griselinia* in his garden and immediately found it in quantity. He subsequently found it in many other locations: Highfield Rd., Shanklin; Keats Green, Shanklin; and on Culver Way, Yaverland (IO). On each occasion he found it very quickly, suggesting that it can be found wherever there is a *Griselinia* hedge. (Fig. 5)



Fig. 5: *Physalacria stilboidea* on dead *Griselinia* leaf.

Photo: Iain Outlaw

**Beauveria bassiana*

An entomopathogenic fungus found on two dead Darkling Beetles (*Nalassus laevioctostriatus*) beneath loose bark at Los Altos park, Lake on 23rd April (IO). This fungus acts as a parasite of various arthropods eventually killing them. It is the asexual form of one of *Cordyceps* fungi.

**Diaporthe aucubae*

A black Pyrenocarp on dead twigs of Japanese Laurel (*Aucuba japonica*) in garden by Hungerberry Copse, Shanklin (IO).

**Calonectria lauri*

On dead leaves of Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) in Beech Copse, Godshill on 16th November (IO). It was found in a leaf litter sample collected to examine for invertebrates. Subsequently recorded from a dead Holly leaf in a garden at the edge of Hungerberry Copse, Shanklin. (both IO). The tiny yellow perithecia are specific to Holly leaves. (Fig. 6)



Fig. 6: *Calonectria lauri* on holly leaf. Photo: Iain Outlaw

**Cylindrium elongatum*

Found on dead leaves of Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) in a Ferncliff Gardens, Sandown on 19th November (IO). It forms white, effuse colonies bearing long chains of long narrow conidia. (Figs. 7 & 8)



Fig. 7: *Cylindrium elongatum* on holm oak leaf.

Scale bar is 0.5mm

Photo: Iain Outlaw



Fig. 8: *Cylindrium elongatum* conidia. Photo: Iain Outlaw

The *Laboulbeniales* are tiny Ascomycetes, 0.03-2mm high, that grow on living insects, millipedes and other arthropods. Each species has one or several hosts and some are always situated on specific areas of the hosts. They do not have a true mycelium and apparently do not enter the host cavity but get their nutrients only from the exoskeleton. Early in the year, Iain Outlaw collected a number of beetles from Haddon's Pits, Luccombe. Almost every surface of the beetle *Catops morio* was covered in the fungus, **Asaphomyces tubanticus* and a rove beetle (*Sepedophilus constans*) was carrying **Stichomyces conosomatis*.

Recorders

CRP Colin Pope; IO Iain Outlaw; mo many observers
Abbreviation: det. Determined by

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