

NFG Foray at Eaton Wood, Retford, 26th May 2024

When we set out for this foray it was raining and the outlook was grim. It was still raining a little when we were all gathered, but ceased shortly after we had all set off into the wood. NFG luck: it is surprising how few times over the years we have been really soaked or actually rained off.

The total number of fungi recorded (28) was not great; it rarely is at this time of the year, but some interesting species were seen. Two myxomycetes or slime moulds turned up early on: Karen Corbel's *Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa* on a stump, an attractive white, shiny, translucent mass of tiny clubs and branches; and Jamie Stanford's *Lycogala terrestre*, bright pink beads or globes on a fallen branch. Yi Wang very early on found the common but always photogenic *Polyporus squamosus* (Dryad's Saddle) on a stump. It grows on a number of hardwoods and often on sycamore.

A find that impressed those present was the discovery near the base of an old Hogweed stem of *Calyptella capula*, tiny white goblets on delicate stems. We all thought they were an ascomycete - I should have known better as we have found it on forays before. The microscope tells a different tale and they are in fact basidiomycetes, quite common but very easily overlooked. Two species of Marasmius were widely distributed, *Marasmius rotula* (Collared Parachute) and *Marasmius androsaceus* (Horsehair Parachute), though the latter should now, I believe, be called *Gymnopus androsaceus*. Vaughan Cooper and Ann Ward both found *Scutellinia trechispora* in different areas of the wood. Superficially it is like the common *Scutellinia scutellata*, but its spores and paraphyses are very different. It is only a 2nd Notts record and not very common.

While looking at the common crust, *Hypoxylon petriniae*, on an old fallen ash branch, I saw some tiny elliptical black growths with a central longitudinal cleft. These turned out to be *Hysterium angustatum*, quite common on fallen wood, but only a 3rd Notts record. Similarly on another bit of rotten wood with damp soil attached, I came across a hyphomycete, *Cirrenalia lignicola*, a remarkable fungus that looks just like a whorled snail shell, visible only with a microscope and seen by chance. It has been found once before in the county and not often recorded anywhere; and so is a 2nd Notts record.

Three "real" mushrooms were found (i.e. with cap, stem and gills), *Calocybe gambosa* (St George's Mushroom) by Vaughan, *Psathyrella piluliformis* (Common Stump Brittlestem) by Tony Spratley and some small *Mycena hiemalis* on the mossy base of a birch tree by me.

Back at the cars, the weather was still cool but sunny, a cheerful end to our walk around the wood.

Howard Williams