

Wyre Forest Study Group

Clavicornona taxophila (Thom) Doty, Lloydia 10: 39 (1947). Basidiomycota, Russulales, Auriscalpiaceae.

Yew Club.

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On 7th December 2022 members of the Wyre Forest Study Group braved the cold frosty conditions to visit Holy Trinity Churchyard at Far Forest. Waxcap fungi were the main reason for the churchyard visit but whilst looking for fungi under a mature *Taxus baccata*, Yew, both Rosemary Winnall and I spotted some small white club fungi that I immediately realised must be *Clavicornona taxophila*, Yew Club. This was a species that typically occurs under Yew trees and had been on my 'list' of possible species for the Wyre Forest due to the numerous Yews present in the woodland. Alas, I had never seen it until now!

The fruitbodies were scattered underneath the Yew canopy perhaps 20-25 in total. The tiny clavate clubs were some 10-20mm long and very truncated with a fringe or 'coronet' at the top. Several other species of small white fungi can look similar but not with this exact set of characteristics. The species is illustrated and described in Roger Phillip's Fungi book (Phillips 1989). It can also be found growing under *Chamaecyparis* spp. Cypress or False Cypress trees.

Listed as Near Threatened, Red Data List (Evans *et. al.* 2006) and it has apparently been found at nine scattered locations in the British Isles. *The Checklist of the British & Irish Basidiomycota* (Legon & Henrici 2005) gives it as 'rarely reported' for England. It also appears to be rare in Europe. According to the nomenclatural database Index Fungorum, the genus is monotypic as the sole remaining valid species is the type, *Clavicornona taxophila*.

This is an exceptional new species of fungus for the Wyre Forest and shows how important this area is for scarce and uncommon fungi.

References

Evans, S. Henrici, A and Ing, B. (2006) *Red Data List of Threatened British Fungi*. British Mycological Society. RDL Taxa :: British Mycological Society (britmycolsoc.org.uk).

Phillips, R. (1989) *Mushrooms and Other Fungi of Great Britain and Europe*. p. 258-259. Pan Books.

Legon, N W and Henrici, A. (2005) *The Checklist of the British & Irish Basidiomycota*. p.40. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.



Clavicornona taxophila, Yew Club

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