Some unusual early Autumn Fungi found in Wyre Forest 2015

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Gomphidius roseus (Fr.) Rosy Spike

This fungus was found on 26th September 2015 at Postenplain, Wyre Forest under mature Scots Pine with Heather and Bilberry. Unfortunately it was a poor specimen already slug damaged but showing all the characteristics of the species. This is a rather rare fungus, only recorded once from Wyre by Carleton Rea. (Rea 1926). This was the first time I have seen it growing locally. It is strongly associated with, and possibly parasitic on, *Suillus bovinus* Bovine Bolete. In turn *S. bovinus* is mycorrhizal on Scots Pine trees, so we have a complex relationship with three species all linked by fungal mycelia. The stronghold for this fungus is Scotland but it is quite widespread and found occasionally in areas such as the New Forest.

All the *Gomphidius* species are scarce. Perhaps *Gomphidius maculatus* Larch Spike is the most common in Wyre. This is associated with *Suillus grevillei* Larch Bolete and as to be expected is mycorrhizal on larch, *Larix* species. A third *Gomphidius* species, *G. glutinosus* Slimy Spike is found under spruce, but possibly also associated with *S. grevillei.* As far as I am aware this rare species has only been recorded once from Wyre when I found it at Sturt Common in September 1999, but it could be overlooked. Scotland is the best place to see these fungi and they arrived further south in association with conifer plantations.

A similar species is *Chroogomphus rutilus* Copper Spike found locally under pines, but I have yet to see it in Wyre although it has been recorded there. It seems to have a preference for sandy soil and is more often found with Scots Pine around the Kidderminster area.

Aureoboletus gentilis (Quél.) Pouzar. Gilded Bolete.

This species is well known form Wyre Forest but infrequently seen and never common. A specimen was found under mature oaks in New Parks not far from the Great Bog on the Worcestershire side of the forest on 10th September 2015. It has a pinkish coloured slimy cap 3-4 cm across, and a yellow stem, but the most obvious feature is the pores on the underside of the cap. These are a vivid, brilliant yellow, almost fluorescent and are unchanging when bruised. The dull wet weather of 2015 was a good year for slugs and the specimen was too badly damaged for a photograph. Carlton Rea noted it in his list for Wyre dated 1926. More recently it was recorded by Ted Blackwell in 1981, with further records by various people in 1998, 1999, 2008 and 2009, including my own in 1999 and 2008 records in oak woodland near Coopers Mill. (BMS Checklist)

All these records were made from the Shropshire portion of Wyre, so this 2015 record may be the first for Worcestershire Wyre. This species has a southern distribution but with a scattering of records from the West Midland / Marches area. It is more familiar under its older name of *Aureoboletus cramesinus.* It may be associated with other Boletes as it seemed to grow with either *Boletus edulis* Penny Bun or *B. reticulatus* Summer Bolete. I have not read anything to confirm this so it may be just coincidence.

JNCC (Ainsworth 2013) describe it as Nationally Threatened with an estimated population: 1–10 fruit bodies recorded at each of 94 sites. They describe it as 'a thermophilous bolete mainly fruiting in older

woodlands of central and southern England with *Quercus* and to a lesser extent, *Fagus, Castanea, Corylus, Pinus* and *Picea*. One of a group of species found in bolete 'hotspots' with a stronghold in the New Forest, Hampshire'.

Pseudocraterellus undulatus (Pers.) Rauschert. Sinuous Chanterelle.

Pseudocraterellus undulatus, New Parks John Bingham

Better known under the old name of *Pseudocraterellus sinuosus* this species was found by Brett Westwood on a damp, flushed site in New Parks. Many people viewed the numerous specimens as we were on a Study Group field meeting held on 10th September 2015. Formerly it was listed as Vulnerable on the Red Data List (Ing 1992) but it has since been removed (Red Data List, Evans et al. 2006). Although I have seen this fungus quite often in Herefordshire woods, this was the first time personally for Wyre. It was first recorded in Wyre by John Amphlett in 1909(?) and noted by Carleton Rea in his Wyre list of 1923. The last Wyre record was 5th September 1962 by anon, Worcestershire (VC: 37), Wyre Forest, SO77 in JNCC/BMS Atlas of Rare Fungi. (BMS Checklist). So this is a particularly good find of a very scarce fungus.

Reference and reading

Ainsworth, A M, et al. 2013 JNCC Species Status No. 14. Red List of Fungi for Great Britain: Boletaceae. A pilot conservation assessment based on national database records, fruit body morphology and DNA barcoding. JNCC

British Mycological Society. Online - The Checklist of Fungi of the British Isles http://www.fieldmycology.net/GBCHKLST/gbchklst.asp Ing B, 1992. A Provisional Red Data List of British Fungi. The Mycologist 6: 124–128

Rea, C. 1923 The Fungi of Wyre Forest Transactions of the Worcestershire Naturalists Club. Vol .VIII, 1923-1931 pages 16-40.

Pseudocraterellus undulatus, New Parks John Bingham