

Wyre Forest Study Group

Plicatura crispa (Pers.) Rea. Agaricales, Basidiomycota. Crimped Gill, a new Fungus recorded for Wyre.

JOHN BINGHAM

Winter can still provide some fungal fruiting and the Dowles Brook often is a good area to search for specimens to ponder over their identification. On 24th January 2022 I visited the area of the brook near Coopers Mill and on a large Hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice stool I noticed a small somewhat dried fungus on one of the dead stems. It looked unfamiliar but too shrivelled to tell what it was so I collected some to take back home.

The fungus rehydrated well with a few drops of water, each fruitbody about 4-8mm across and looked very different from the more normal gilled fungi typically found on twigs. A search in various literature soon provided a name, *Plicatura crispa* Crimped Gill. It was a new species for me and had not recorded in the forest before (WFSG 2022). Les Hughes, fungal recorder for Shropshire, confirmed it was a new Shropshire record (Hughes 2021). An internet search provided more information;

It was first recorded in 1868 in Scotland and then in northern England but remained scarce for years but in 2000 more records started to appear in northern England (Henerci 2018). In 2006 Joyce Pitt recorded it in Kent and since then it has spread over much of south-east England but as Henerci reported – ‘This summary leaves *P. crispa* to my knowledge still unknown

anywhere in the Midlands or Wales or the south-west’.

Since then, single records have come from Buckholt Woods, Gloucestershire in 2021 and near Loughborough, Leicestershire in 2019 (Fungal Records Database 2022), this Wyre record would be a further spread west for this species. Why it has started such a recent and rapid spread across the country remains unknown, climate change perhaps? It can also be found on Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Birch (*Betula* sp.) and other tree species but perhaps Hazel is the most likely in Wyre. It is unmistakable when expanded and damp, particularly the underside gills as shown.

References & Reading

- Henerci, A. (2018) *Plicatura crispa* - spreading rapidly in Britain. *Field Mycology*. Vol 19 (2) p.61-64.
- Hughes, L. (2021) *The Checklist of the Shropshire Fungi 2021*. Shropshire Fungus Group. Private publication, also on line.
- The Fungal Records Database of Britain and Ireland (2022) [On line]<http://www.frdbi.info/?q=home>. Accessed 27/1/2022
- WFSG (2017) *Fungi of Wyre*. [On line] <https://wyreforest.net/fungi-of-wyre>. Accessed 27/1/2022

Footnote: on 2nd February 2022 I discovered *Plicatura crispa* growing abundantly on at least 17 hazel coppice stools on the Worcestershire side of the Dowles Brook upstream from Coopers Mill. Frutbodies in total numbered many thousands!



Plicatura crispa, caps

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Plicatura crispa, underside gills

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Plicatura crispa, desiccated fruitbodies on *Corylus*

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