

# Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network

([www.pembsfungi.org.uk](http://www.pembsfungi.org.uk))

## Newsletter (4/2009)

### Records

The highlight of the late-spring recording period was a visit by Peter Thompson. Peter, a regular visitor to our County, specialises in photographing spore-shooting fungi (ascomycetes) which in many cases are rather small - often less than a millimetre in diameter.

Peter's trip took him to sites at Keeston Common, Naples Farm (Keeston), Stackpole, Somerton Farm (Hundleton) and Pwllcrochan - mostly spending time looking at dead vegetation in damp areas.

He was well rewarded, with his collection adding 14 new County records of which 5 were new to Wales.



**Photos:** (from the left).

Water-saturated dead willow with tiny (~1 mm. diam.) *Orbilia sarraziniana* fruit bodies.

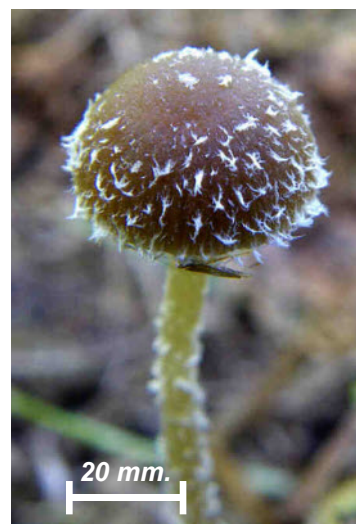
Yellow cups of *Hymenoscyphus repandus* (~ 2 to 3 mm. diam.) on dead herbaceous material from a damp area.

Peat Glead hunting for the red-orange discs (4 to 8 mm. diam.) of *Scutellinia subhirtella* (inset photo) on Keeston Common. This find was a first County record for the species.

### *Psathyrella hirta* - an uncommon dung fungus?

....Well maybe just rarely recorded - as I suspect it is quite common, but is not illustrated in many of the popular guides. This spring I noticed this white-flocced, brown-capped, mushroom growing on cattle dung. The white particles are soon lost leaving a somewhat non-descript fruiting body.

After consulting various references, the species keyed out to *Psathyrella hirta*. Inspection of the two national databases suggests only about 26 British records for the species (probably fewer due to duplication of records), with none in Wales. The voucher specimen was sent to Kew, and the photograph may feature in a future issue of *Field Mycology*.



Slime mould - *Lycogala epidendrum*

Mike Karpaty recently found this example of the Myxomycete (Slime Mould) *Lycogala epidendrum* growing on dead wood (Ash).

The pink or grey spherical fruiting bodies are fairly common, but less often encountered is the “plasmodium” or mobile stage of this species which is the bright red substance shown with the pink fruiting bodies.

The fruiting bodies are usually found on well-decayed wood, and are typically 3 to 15 mm in diameter.

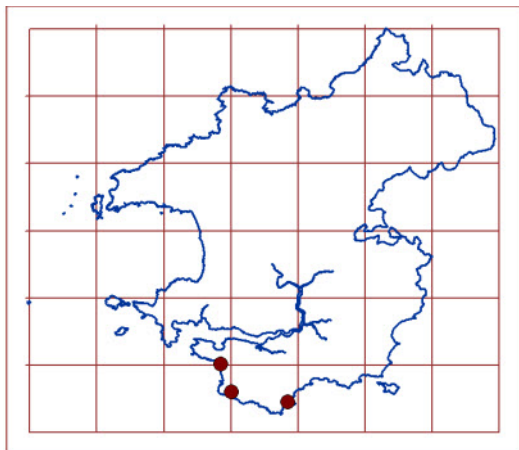


Pembrokeshire Red Data List

***Entoloma excentricum***

This Red Data List species typically occurs in small groups on calcareous unfertilised soil. The cap, which can be up to 60 mm diameter, has a creamy-leather appearance and off-white gills which turn pinkish-brown as the spores mature.

This is a fairly rare species with fewer than 30 records on the national database. In Pembrokeshire, the records are confined to three sites on limestone grassland. Our observations show that the fruiting bodies appear in large numbers during late summer following heavy rain. This is especially the case on the National Trust property at Stackpole Warren which seems to be a particularly good site for the species.



Wales Biodiversity Partnership

Biodiversity interests in Wales are promoted by the Wales Biodiversity Partnership which includes representatives from conservation and wildlife organisations. Sheila Spence of the Gwent Fungus Group has recently been appointed to the relevant Biodiversity Partnership specialist groups to provide input as a field mycologist. This is an excellent move as it ensures that fungus conservation interests are suitably represented.

In addition to her WBP involvement, Sheila is the British Mycological Society Recording Network Coordinator, having taken over this role from Liz Holden who stood down at the end of last year.

David Harries (June 2009)