

READERS' FINDS



Fig. 1. *Bactridium flavum*

The striking photo is of a hyphomycete fairly common on wet rotten wood, especially of *Salix*, in damp places. It is much magnified, each ball being in reality only around 0.5 mm across. The apparent spines are actually the projecting tips of individual remarkably large multi-septate conidia, each 50–100 x 20–40 µm. These are illustrated in Ellis & Ellis, *Microfungi on British Land Plants*, Fig.1137. In the field it somewhat resembles the common similarly-sized but duller orange pustules of the conidial state of *Botryobasidium aureum*, a ubiquitous corticioid on rotten wood. This latter is easily distinguished as its pustules are usually mixed in with its greyish perfect state and its non-septate conidia are a mere 20–30 x 10–15 µm. From rotten wood of *Salix fragilis* at Roche Abbey, SW Yorks on the BHS Spring Foray, 16 May 2014. Photo © Peter Smith.



Fig. 2. *Xerocomus ripariellus*

Found in permanently wet ground by a stream on Holmwood Common, Surrey on 20 August, 2014, under *Quercus robur* but with *Betula pubescens*, *Populus tremula* and *Salix cinerea* all within rooting distance. The beautiful red cap with minute cracks is very characteristic of the species. Photograph © Vivien Hodge.



Fig. 3. *Hygrocybe spadicea*

We are indebted to Roy Betts for the photograph of this uncommon to rare waxcap. With its dark, reddish brown to sepia, strongly fibrillose cap, contrasting with its pale yellow, very broad gills, it is one of the easier species in the genus to identify in the field. In grass under a roadside oak, 13th October, 2013, in parkland at Tyntesfield Estate, Bristol. Photograph © Roy Betts.



Fig. 4. *Meripilus giganteus*

Although *Meripilus giganteus* is a common species, mainly on *Fagus* but on a wide variety of other tree species also, it remains one of our most spectacular fungi. Groups of brackets may reach a metre or more across and the species is distinguished by its blackening flesh when bruised. At the base of a large beech tree, Park Wood near Kirkby Lonsdale, Aug. 25, 2013. Photograph © Mike Hall.

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