Notes & Records

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Undoubtedly the major news for readers of FM since the last issue has been the announcement of the generously funded five-year 'Lost and Found' project. This is intended to harness the enthusiasm of amateur fungus recorders by getting them focussed in particular on species likely to be of conservation concern. It will inevitably be much concerned with attempts to distinguish really rare species from ones merely rarely recorded. It brings me to my first topic in this issue.

Byssosphaeria schiedermayeriana reappears

It is to me a constant source of wonderment how multiple occurrences of a 'rarity' can suddenly pop up over a wide area in a short timespan. Sometimes it is a false rarity, a newly arrived invader, 'rare' in Britain only for its first few weeks. Such things tend to be plant pathogens, e.g. the daisy rust *Puccinia distincta* which arrived in Europe from Australasia in 1976, or the horse-chestnut mildew *Erysiphe flexuosa* which reached Britain in 2001. Also notably *Agrocybe rivulosa*, of unknown origin but described from Holland, which established itself on woodchips throughout much of England in 2004 and 2005. In all such cases it is the speed of their spread that is remarkable. A rather different phenomenon is the rarity that produces a sudden flush of records for a year or two and then goes back to being rare. *Squamanita* species are often mentioned in this context.

What sort of rarity is the largely tropical *Byssosphaeria schiedermayeriana*? This was found by Richard Fortey in Oxfordshire on *Sambucus* on 20 Dec. 2011, a first outdoor British record, and written up with much historical background in FM13(3) (Fortey, Henrici & Spooner, 2012). It has already turned up twice more, firstly 18 Nov. 2012 on rotten *Salix* bark at Melangoose in E. Cornwall found by Ken Preston-Mafham, then in Yorkshire found by me, to my considerable surprise, again on *Salix* during this year's BMS spring foray (for details see Fig. 1). The flat brightly coloured discs surrounding the ostioles make this immediately recognisable when fresh. It is unlikely to be ignored if found. The 2011 Oxfordshire collection was too old for its photo to do it justice.

Fig. 1. *Byssosphaeria schiedermayeriana*. This collection extended over 30 cm of a single small fallen *Salix* branch in an otherwise rather dried out and unproductive *Salix* carr. Worsbrough Country Park, SW Yorks, 17 May 2014. Photo © Peter Smith.

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doi:10.1016/j.fldmyc.2014.09.012

What people are doing to *Boletus*

Further to the unanswered question "What shall we do about *Boletus*?" in my last notes, various people were doing things even while those notes were in the press. I mentioned that Wu *et al.* (2014) had identified 25 new genus-level clades in the *Boletaceae* but left them unnamed (their title says 22 clades - they appear to have lost count!). By July of this year others had rushed in to name at least four of the 25. Alfredo Vizzini has described a new genus *Caloboletus* for *Boletus* section *Calopodes* (Vizzini, 2014a), thus introducing new combinations for two British species: *B. calopus* and *B. radicans*. He has also described a new monotypic genus *Imleria* for *Boletus badius* (Vizzini, 2014b) and jointly with two colleagues a new genus *Cyanoboletus* to hold *B. pulverulentus* and two other non-European species (Vizzini, 2014c). The name *Imleria* commemorates the Belgian mycologist Louis Imler who maintained an interest in boletes throughout a long life and published a series of 'notes critiques' on these and other topics in the *Bull. Soc. Myc. Français*. Lastly Arora and Frank (2014) have described *Butyriboletus* for the 'butter boletes', i.e. the greasy-capped *Boletus* section *Appendiculati*. They have transferred eight species and described six new ones, the relevant British species being *B. appendiculatus*, *B. fechtneri*, *B. pseudoregius* and *B. subappendiculatus*.

It is by no means obligatory to take up any of these new names. There is an alternative school of thought, supported by Bryn Dentinger (pers. comm.), that such piecemeal tampering is jumping the gun while major aspects of *Boletus* phylogeny remain fluid. He points out that tropical, especially African, boletes are still very poorly understood and are apt to throw up awkward species seemingly falling between some of the more narrowly defined genera. Even the major groupings that I summarised following Wu *et al*. (2014) he considers rather less secure than I implied, on the right lines but still somewhat blurred at the edges.

Some cynical thoughts

It is an old old story that if you have a clock you will know the time, but if you have several you won't, because they will differ. And if your only clock has broken down it will at least be exactly right twice a day. I find a mycological parallel: if you have one guide to the agarics you can name what you find in the field, if you have several you can't. And maybe if you throw away all your guides and stick with the names you first learnt they will be considered correct twice each century! These musings were provoked by the attempts of myself and Geoffrey Kibby to investigate three species presented in this issue of FM, each under names not currently recognised in the British checklist, all probably previously collected in Britain, and indeed preserved in Kew, but mostly under other names. The species concerned are *Clitocybe obsoleta*, *Lyophyllum paelochroum* and *Melanoleuca pseudoluscina* and in each case the literature is confusing and in places flatly contradictory. The issues surrounding the first of these are discussed under its 'Fungal Portrait' (p.111). Further notes follow on the other two.

Blackening *Lyophyllum* species with globose spores

Until quite recently these were all lumped into a single species widely known as *Lyophyllum immundum*. Then it was found that the basis for this name, Berkeley's *Agaricus immundus*, was a species described from dung and not a *Lyophyllum* at all. In its place the name *L. crassifolium* was used for a while (eg. by Lange and in *Nordic Macromycetes* Vol.2). This name was a replacement for Berkeley's *A. pachyphyllus* of 1836, as Fries had already described a quite different *A. pachyphyllus* in 1815. This second Berkeley species is also not a *Lyophyllum*, so the next oldest name was taken up: Cooke's *A. eustygius*. This has a type collection (at K) and an illustration by Cooke, reproduced here as Fig.2, and is indeed a globose-spored blackening *Lyophyllum*. It became the name used in the checklist, but it is now known that there are several species involved. Current understanding of the group stems largely from Clémencon (1986). He gave keys to all European blackening *Lyophyllum* species based on his own extensive type studies.

Clémencon recognised five species with globose spores: *L. eustygium* and one other with collybioid aspect (thin tapering stems sometimes rooting) and three with tricholomatoid aspect (stems cylindric to basally swollen). Ludwig (2000) illustrated four of these five, omitting only *L. eustygium* that he had never seen, but in