Readers' Finds

Psathyrella spadicea

During a visit to Queen Elizabeth Country Park, south Hampshire VC11, on 28 September, 2016, the author collected a cluster of medium-sized agarics near the base of a large *Taxus baccata* (Fig. 1). They had dry whitish-grey convex caps, a similar coloured stem with no trace of a ring and brown adnate gills. I thought this collection might be interesting because I had collected similar agarics, again under *Taxus*, near Winchester, North Hampshire VC12, on 30 November, 2013. Both collections dropped long, chocolate-brown, ellipsoid spores with no germ pore.

Examined microscopically side by side the collections were clearly the same species. Both had numerous lageniform cystidia incrusted with crystals on their caps and an average spore size of 9 x 6 µm. The robust nature of the fruit bodies suggested this might be a *Pholiota*, possibly *P. lenta*, but this identification seemed doubtful.

I sent my photographs to Geoffrey Kibby who commented "I can say fairly categorically that this is not a *Pholiota* of any description. Judging by the dark, almost cocoa-brown spores and dry hygrophanous caps this is one of the uncommon, very robust, *Psathyrella* species, something close to *P. spadicea*".

I looked at the cap cuticle from both my collections microscopically. Their clavate to pyriform cells confirmed these collections could be a *Psathyrella*. The fruit bodies seemed to be very pale for *P. spadicea* but microscopically they fit the description given for this species. A form with a paler cap was until recently distinguished as *P. sarcocephala* but is now considered conspecific. *P. spadicea* is usually found clustered at the base of broadleaved trees, so its occurrence with *Taxus baccata* would seem to be unusual.

Graham Mattock

[Sequencing shows that this and *P. cernua* are by no means typical *Psathyrella* species. They are now sometimes placed in a separate genus *Homophron*. Ed.]

Fig. 1. *Psathyrella spadicea* in needle litter under *Taxus baccata*. Queen Elizabeth Country Park, South Hampshire, 28 Sept. 2016. Photograph © Graham Mattock.

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Fig. 2. *Suillus collinitus* from a road verge on the outskirts of Winchester, North Hampshire, Oct. 2016, showing the characteristic pink base of its stem. This *Pinus* associate is widespread but uncommon throughout Britain. Photograph © Graham Mattock.

Suillus collinitus

Also sent in by Graham Mattock was this collection of *Suillus collinitus*. The first modern collection of *Suillus collinitus* in Britain, recorded in the Fungal Records Database of Britain & Ireland (FRDBI), was from Toys Hill, Brasted, West Kent (VC: 16), 30 Oct. 1979 by Joyce Pitt and identified by Derek Reid at Kew (under its earlier synonym of *S. fluryi*). An earlier collection exists in the Kew fungarium labelled *Boletus collinitus* from Berkshire in 1868, ex herbarium C.E. Broome. This collection may or may not represent what is now understand as this species and needs a thorough re-evaluation. A look at the nearly 100 records of *S. collinitus* (after removing duplicates) in the FRDBI shows that since 1979 this species has been found fairly regularly and appears to be widespread throughout Britain although not common.

The specimens shown in Fig. 2. were photographed on a grassy roadside verge by the side of a main road on the outskirts of Winchester, North Hampshire VC12. Several large pine trees were nearby. Having checked the 100+ records for *S. collinitus* on the FRDBI this would appear to be a new county record for Hampshire.

From the top *S. collinitus* is easily confused with the much commoner *S. granulatus* or even *S. luteus*, having a slightly radially fibrillose, viscid cap when moist. From *S. granulatus* it differs in the distinctly pinkish-vinaceous flush at the base of the stem (although it is not usually as well-marked as seen in this photo). From *S. luteus* it differs in entirely lacking the prominent ring on the stem of that species.

Geoffrey Kibby

Hortiboletus bubalinus

These photos (Fig. 3) were sent in by Tony Boniface from Essex. Described from the Netherlands in 1991 as *Boletus bubalinus* it was later moved to *Xerocomus* in 1993 before being moved to *Xerocomellus* in 2014 and finally (we hope!) to *Hortiboletus* in 2015. The initial move was based on increasingly detailed knowledge of gross morphology and the later ones on multigene molecular studies.

This species is distinguished by its pinkish brown to ochraceous pink cap, stem with pinkish