Notes and Records

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Field Mycology has carried numerous articles highlighting changes to nomenclature or pointing out the existence of tricky species complexes where once there were only easy species. For once I would like to put aside such worrying concerns and celebrate four species all found late in 2016, all highly distinctive - the sort of unexpected finds that make foraying so addictive. The first was merely new to most of those present when found, the second was a new British record, and the last two second British records.

Coprinopsis spelaiophilus (Bas & Uljé, 1999) Redhead

The collections featured here were growing in its typical habitat - wounds or cavities in the trunks of hardwood trees, firstly a beech in Surrey in Limpsfield Chart, a large area of mixed woodland on nutrient-poor soils (greensand), on a foray of the Surrey Fungus Study Group and secondly a fallen log on Tooting Common, south London. There was a happy mix of people involved in the recording of the first find: Trudy Fleming noticed it, Andy Overall took the photo (Fig. 1) and crucially Mario Tortelli realised what it was, having been shown it in Corsica by Derek Schafer. He remembered only that it had a name referring to cavities. This in turn reminded me that there was a species with a name beginning with 'spel' (speliology being the study of caves), though I wasn't sure it was known in Britain and got quite excited. It didn't take long to confirm its identity.

Fig. I. *Coprinopsis spelaiophilus*, fruiting at head height on a living beech in Surrey at Limpsfield Chart, 26 Oct. 2016. The single scaly-capped fruitbody nestling in a little cavity is very characteristic of this species. Photograph © Andy Overall.

Fig. 2. Three fruitbodies of *C. spelaiophilus* in a knothole in a log, possibly a fallen poplar or oak, on Tooting Common, south London, 29 October 2016. Photograph © Mario Tortelli.

Just three days later Mario found it again (Fig. 2), this time on a fallen log, possibly poplar or oak, on Tooting Common; three mature fruitbodies showing the beautifully recurved cap scales.

In fact this has been quite widely recorded in Britain, though not common (material in Kew from 13 sites). It is treated in the *British Fungus Flora* Vol. 2 under the previously widely used

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name *Coprinus extinctorius*, though with a remark that the name seemed inappropriate (the type description was of a species on dung!). Bas & Uljé gave it its new name preparatory to its treatment by Uljé (2005) in *Flora Agaricina Neerlandica* Vol.6. On living trees it is fairly unmistakeable but it also occurs (rarely) on fallen trunks. There are records in Kew on beech, oak, ash, walnut and horse chestnut.

Hirticlavua elegans Petersen *et al*. (2014)
Readers of FM will already have seen a recent account given by two of its authors (Petersen & Læssøe, 2015) of this very distinctive minute hairy white clavarioid species. This was accompanied by a stunning photo by Jens Petersen bringing out with image stacking all the details of something no more than 1 mm high with stipe 50 µm wide. I won't repeat most of the detail they give and merely stress that, although first found 20 years ago, its authors had the patience to wait until better material was found in 2012 that could make a decent type collection and from which DNA was successfully extracted showing that it justified placement in a new genus. It was by then known from five collections on fallen tree bark, four on oak and one on *Salix*. Three of these had been by Thomas Læssøe in Norway. And now, after British mycologists had had 15 months knowledge of its existence, it was Thomas who found it here during a mere ten day trip. This was in the New Forest at Millyford Bridge on 6 Nov. 2016. See p.31 of this issue for other new British records made by Thomas.

The instructive thing is how Thomas came to find it. He had been examining the inside surface of some old damp flaked off beech bark covered in *Stypella crystallina* and also found two other seldom recorded species on it: *Hemimycena crispula* and *Crepidotus pallidus*. This last is usually known as *Pellidiscus pallidus* and forms small pale discs on rotten wood or other debris, but DNA has recently shown it to be a 'reduced' (gill-less) *Crepidotus*. Since this bark was clearly a miniature 'hotspot' for interesting species the thought of *Hirticlavula* crossed his mind. He searched further and there it was. Don't be put off by the small size. It grows in little clumps easily visible to the naked eye and with a x10 handlens these are clearly the thing in Jens Petersen's photo.

Entoloma callirhodon Hauskn. & Noordel. (1999)
With a name meaning beautiful and pink, this is possibly the easiest of all *Entoloma* species to key

Fig. 3. *Entoloma callirhodon* found in wet mixed woodland beside the River Fal in Crowhill Wood, E. Cornwall, 17 Nov. 2016. Cap 35 mm. Photographs: left © Tony Hardware, right © Pauline Penna.