

FUNGI! ... Neil Tucker

Well, it's fungi season again, although late and a bit subdued, but there is some news to share with you.

Have you been out and about and seen the Reindeer Moss? It is a lichen, which is now classified with the fungi, as it is basically a fungus that has absorbed/taken over/joined symbiotically with an alga. It grows as light grey cushions on the ground in drier, open forests such as Distillery Creek Nature Trail. We found some good patches along Bald Hills Road during our *Grevillea infecunda* survey in July. There are two different species— if you look closely at *Cladia retipora* you will see pores in the structure (*retipora* or pores). Looking very similar from a distance, though usually a bit yellower, is *Cladina confusa*, which has a confused tangle of thread-like branches.



The mystery find, possibly *Cyathicula*

As for 'real' fungi, we had a good weekend with the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria's fungi group early in July. We went to Sheoak Picnic area on the first day and managed to find over 100 species, most of them named to species level. An interesting find was (rare) tiny yellow cups with hairs around the edge. A similar one is known to grow on tree fern fronds, but these were on a twig. No one knows what it is—maybe a *Cyathicula* sp. Each cup is about 2mm high and 1mm diameter (photo by Richard Hartland.)



Mycena roseoflava



Hypholoma brunneum

parasitises other fungi. In the picture it is the small pale points on what is possibly a *Galerina*.

In a wet gully at Erskine Falls we found a beautiful pink *Mycena roseoflava*. It also is tiny, at 3mm high (photo by Reiner Richter.)

On the Cora Lyn Falls walking track there was also a magnificent clump of *Hypholoma brunneum*.

Out at Gherang Gherang Flora Reserve the next day we managed to find 53 species. One of interest is *Neobarya agaricola*. It is a fungus that



Neobarya agaricola



Tranzscheliella hypodytes

We tend to forget that fungi are everywhere all the time—it's only when we see a fruiting body, usually in autumn, that we think of them at all. Many never develop these fruiting bodies at all, for example rusts, smuts and yeasts. I found *Tranzscheliella hypodytes*, one of the smuts, on a spear grass at home. It has rarely been recorded and I have supplied the National Herbarium with specimens. It infects the grass culm at a leaf junction and prevents development of flowers and seeds.



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