

**FUNGI – DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE? ... Neil Tucker**

After a wet start in March, the rain has certainly dropped off, although the damp cloudy weather has meant a continuing, good fungi season. It seems fungi don't need lots of rain, rather enough, so that they don't dry out. This year has highlighted the ephemeral nature of many species – some on the lawns of the Anglesea Riverbank lasted only a few hours. I have also noticed the succession of species over time – early in the season we had lots of Amanitas and various Boletes, but the Coral Fungi are only just starting now, two months later.

- We have been fortunate to find two, very interesting slime moulds at Grassy Creek to add to our previously-collected ones. These are strange creatures, not fungi – see the pictures below and look them up in Wikipedia.



**Young** Chocolate Tube  
Slime Mound  
*Stemonitis axifera*



**Mature** Chocolate Tube  
Slime Mound  
*Stemonitis axifera*



Icicle Fairy Fans  
*Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa*

- *Mycena* is a large genus. Most species have pixie caps. There were hundreds of *Mycena nargan* Nargan's Bonnet at Cecil Track, where there have been none in other years. *Mycena* "tiny blue lights" has no proper name yet. The tiny (1 mm) caps glow in the dark. The third one below has decurrent gills (starting to run down the stem)



Nargan's Bonnet *Mycena nargan*



Tiny Blue Lights *Mycena* sp.



Unknown *Mycena* sp.

- The Coprinaceae family all have black spores and the gills are often stained black by them. Many are flimsy, auto-digesting to a black liquid. Lawyer's Wig and Shaggy Cap are in this family and are edible, but not with alcohol. Here are two from my nature strip, one about 25 mm diam shows the black gills. The other is only tiny, at 7 mm diameter, but is beautiful – the spores have dropped and it has only a couple of hours' life left.



Lawyers' Wigs *Coprinus comatus*



*Coprinellus* sp.



*Coprinellus* sp.

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