

## FUNGI OF LUNDY

By  
HELEN WILSON

I visited Lundy during the week 10th – 17th October, 1987. At the time I had no intention of actually conducting a survey of the fungi on the island, but my natural curiosity for them led me to collect specimens for identification. I was also surprised at the number of species growing on a relatively small area of land in the middle of the sea, especially considering that one of the chief habitats of fungi, namely woodlands, are almost absent.

I have only been professionally involved in the identification of fungi for about four months (though my interest dates back many years), so my knowledge is a little limited. The list below is therefore by no means complete, but will hopefully give some idea of the range of species growing on Lundy.

The island can roughly be divided into three habitats: the grasslands south of Quarter Wall, the heathlands northwards and the broad-leaved woodlands on the east side. Those fungi that appeared in more than one habitat are noted in each list.

### GRASSLANDS:

*Lepiota procera* (Parasol Mushroom): Two specimens found, one young and one mature.

*Hygrocybe pratensis* (Meadow Wax Cap): Two large groups of this ochre Wax Cap.

*Hygrocybe citrina*: This lemon-yellow Wax Cap was common in large groups.

*Hygrocybe conica* (Conical Wax Cap): Only one specimen of this orange-yellow Wax Cap, near the Quarter Wall.

*Hygrocybe pucinea*: Only one large specimen of this red and yellow Wax Cap.

*Hygrocybe russocorticea*: One small group of this white Wax Cap, near the steps down to the diving quay.

*Hygrocybe psittacina* (Parrot Wax Cap): This small, yellow and green Wax Cap was found in large numbers.

*Hygrocybe colemaniannus*: One good specimen of this beige Wax Cap.

*Mycena leptocephala*: This small, bell-shaped, grey *Mycena* grows abundantly.

*Mycena* sp.: Several other species of *Mycena* were found, but identification was uncertain.

*Entoloma porphyophaeum*: Several good specimens of this lilac-brown species.

*Agaricus campestris* (Field Mushroom): Difficult to say how common this species is, since I think most of them were picked before I got to them!

*Agaricus arvensis* (Horse Mushroom): Also common, and equally edible.

*Stropharia semiglobata* (Dung Roundhead): Fairly common, growing in the dung.

*Psilocybe semilanceata* (Liberty Cap): Very common.

*Coprinus niveus*: One small specimen of this Ink Cap, growing in dung.

*Panaeolus semiovatus*: Very common, growing in dung, some very large ones dried to a high shine in the wind.

*Lycoperdon pyriforme*: Small group of this puff-ball found beside the path to South Light.

### HEATHLANDS

*Clitocybe* sp.: Several good, but unidentified specimens found amongst the heather near Pondsburry.

*Marasmius oreadoides* (Fairy-Ring Champignon): Fairly common in small groups but one large ring was found on the edge of a stream on the west side.

*Mycena* sp.: See Grasslands.

*Cortinarius* sp.: A group of three were found growing in dung near Pondsburry.

*Stropharia semiglobatus* (Dung Roundhead): See Grasslands.

*Panaeolus semiovatus*: See Grasslands.

*Scleroderma citrinum* (Common Earthball): Several groups found on the west side, but not as common as I would have thought.

*Vascellum pratense*: Common in small groups, but one very large ring of these puff-balls found just north of Quarter Wall.

*Clavinopsis helvola*: Small, yellow, finger-like fungus, growing mainly in the clearings between the heather.

#### WOODLANDS

*Collybia dryophila* (Oak Tough Shank): Several specimens found.

*Russula ochroleuca* (Common Yellow Russula): Two groups of this species were found among the rhododendrons.

*Russula atropurpurea*: Quite a few of this purple russula in the same location as above.

*Hypholoma fasciculare* (Sulphur Tuft): Several clumps of this sulphur-yellow fungus.

*Polyporus squamosus* (Dryad's Saddle): A particularly maggot-ridden specimen was found growing on dead wood. Two young ones were also found in a different location. They are mushroom-shaped, before maturing into the typical fan-shape.

*Tremella mesenterica* (Yellow Brain Fungus): This golden-yellow jelly fungus was typically growing on gorse.

There were about 15 further species which I was unable to identify due to lack of time and/or information. Taking into account the fact that I was only on Lundy for one week and other species may not have emerged during that time, I estimate that there could be over a hundred species on the island.

Some of the particularly good specimens I have managed to bring back to Plymouth and they will be preserved by freeze-drying in the Muirhead Memorial Herbarium at the Polytechnic, where I am responsible for the fungi collection.

#### ADDENDUM

Many of Lundy's plants and animals, ranging from lichens to beetles, have received critical attention, as documented in various L.F.S. annual reports. However fungi have, to a certain extent, been overlooked. This is somewhat surprising in view of their often showy appearance. The only records of fungi identified on Lundy are to be found in the 1970, 1971 and 1972 Lundy Field Society annual reports. Some of these identifications are referred to as tentative and little idea of their status is given. Helen Wilson's list is to be welcomed and hopefully it will rekindle interest in Lundy's fungi.

N.A. Willcox