



▲ Orange Milkcap *Lactarius aurantiacus* in Millcombe, November (photo: Mandy Dee).

FUNGI AND SLIME MOULDS

Species found in 2023

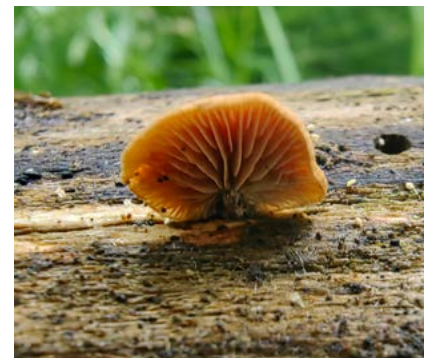
Mandy Dee

2023 was another excellent year for fungi recording on Lundy with 430 individual records of 262 species, of which 61 are new, including two Slime Moulds. This takes the total for Fungi and Slime Moulds to 860. The 2023 list of records can be found on the LFS Website, along with the Master List of all records.

The spring is always a lean period for fungi, but Louise Cookson contributed the first logbook record of the year on 27th March, with an aged specimen of **Giant Puffball** *Calvatia gigantea* found in Brick Field. The photo is of a newer group later in November on the old dung heap in Brickfield. Dung fungi are present all year round, and Mandy Dee added a handful of records in April. May saw John Hedger and myself on the island for a weekend, recording 39 species, including rusts and smuts on plants, of which 12 were new. Of greatest interest was a first record of **Wood Oysterling** *Deconica horizontalis* on a Sycamore log in St Helen's Copse. This is a tiny, brown-capped bracket-like gill fungus with a short stalk, a bit like a miniature Oyster Mushroom. John Hedger returned in November to the same log and found another bracket-like gill fungus but without stalks (sessile) and with 'shell like' purplish caps with widely spaced gills inside (see photo). This proved to be *Hohenbuehelia unguicularis*, a new record and the second member of its genus to be found on Lundy (*H.mastrucata* in Quarter Wall Copse was featured in last year's report). Both are rare in the UK.

Plenty of summer rain should have meant plenty of fungi during the summer months, but sadly none were recorded. Occasional records from visitors during July and August would be most welcome! David Botcherby and Zoe Roberts from the Sorby Natural History Society kicked off the autumn with a September record of **Persistent Waxcap** *Hygrocybe acutoconica* from the North End. This is an early waxcap species we only find occasionally, so a great record to see in the logbook.

By late September, a spell of warm dry weather had interrupted the season, with many species stopping fruiting. Two weeks of recording by Mandy eventually amassed some records, including the nationally rare **Perenniporia ochroleuca**, a small buff bracket fungus which fruits reliably every year on the blackthorn trunks beside the path from Government House to Blue Bung. The rough grass slope below the tavern, above the path to the blue door was studded with the tiny caps of **Hairy Parachute** *Crinipellis scabella*, each one a tiny pale cap with a dark centre (see photo). The Creeping Willow around Pondsburry contributed plenty of the early autumn species usually found there: **Orange Milkcap** *Lactarius aurantiacus*, which we also found in November under Pines in Millcombe (see photo); **Fleecy Milkcap** *Lactarius vellereus*; **Winecork Brittlebill**



▲ Wood Oysterling *Deconica horizontalis* on a Sycamore log in St.Helen's Copse May (photo: John Hedger).



▲ Hohenbuehelia unguicularis on a dead Sycamore branch in St.Helen's Copse November (photo: John Hedger).



▲ Giant Puffball *Calvatia gigantea* old and young fruit bodies on the manure heap in Brickfield November (photo: John Hedger).



▲ Hairy Parachute *Crinipellis scabella* on dead grass stems near the tavern September (photo: Mandy Dee).



▲ Fairy Spindles *Clavulinopsis fusiformis* in grass near the Punchbowl November (photo: John Hedger).



▲ Smokey Spindles *Clavaria fumosa* Lighthouse Field October (photo: Mandy Dee).



▲ Hairy Earthtongue *Trichoglossum hirsutum* in the lawn by Square Cottage November (photo: John Hedger).

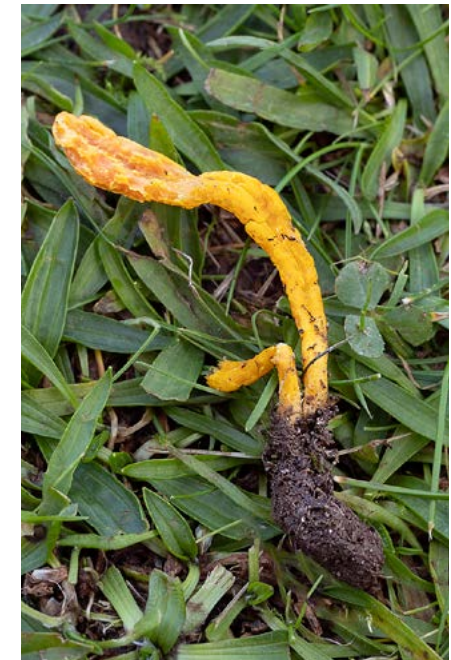


▲ Sordid Blewit *Lepista sordida* var. *obscurata* in turf by Government House November (photo: Mandy Dee)

Russula adusta; **Coral Brittle Gill** *Russula velenovskyi*; **Cep** *Boletus edulis* and a Bog Brownie *Hypholoma ericaeum*. Finally, some autumn rain triggered the fruiting of waxcaps, starting with a lovely clump of **Blackening Waxcaps** *Hygrocybe conica* in the Upper Aerogenerator Field (Upper Lighthouse Field). Once the soil is moist enough, the Waxcaps usually fruit in waves though the autumn, and another record of **Blackening Waxcap** by Tim Davis on 19th October, in a regular spot alongside the track near Pondsburry, supports this.

By 25th October when Mandy Dee and Louise Cookson arrived for a few days foraging, there were Waxcaps popping up everywhere, including **Snowy Waxcap** *Cuphophyllus virgineus*, **Butter Waxcap** *Hygrocybe ceracea*, **Heath Waxcap** *Gliophorus laetus*, **Parrot Waxcap**

Gliophorus psittacinus, **Golden Waxcap** *Hygrocybe chlorophana*, **Oily Waxcap** *Hygrocybe quieta* and **Scarlet Waxcap** *Hygrocybe coccinea*. The Clubs and Corals are another group of grassland fungi, and records were made of **Meadow Coral** *Clavulinopsis corniculata*, **Fairy Spindles** *Clavulinopsis fusiformis* (see photo), **Yellow Club** *Clavulinopsis helvola*, **White Spindles** *Clavaria fragilis*, **Smoky Spindles** *Clavaria fumosa* (see photo), and **Apricot Club** *Clavulinopsis luteoalba*. These are commonly found in areas of short grass such as the Airfield, Lighthouse Field, beyond Quarter Wall around the ruins, and around Rocket Pole, but they can pop up anywhere. One similar-looking species which has been on our 'hope to find' list for many years was finally discovered by Mandy growing beside the track in St Johns Valley. The **Scarlet Caterpillar Club** *Cordyceps militaris* appears to be an orangey red, short club with a distinctive pockmarked surface. It is not related to the clubs and is actually an insect parasitising species in the ascomycete fungi, and grows from an infected moth pupa buried in the soil. A great first! Another new record of a striking purple mushroom, a variety of the **Sordid Blewit** *Lepista sordida* var. *obscurata* was made on the grass just outside Millcombe (see photo). Another lawn-find, but later in November, was of the black fruit bodies of the **Hairy Earthtongue** *Trichoglossum hirsutum* between Square Cottage and Old House. It differs from other black Earthtongues by having a distinctly stiff-haired stem shown well in the photograph. 2023 was one of our best autumns for Earthtongues on Lundy and we also found four species of the smooth-stemmed **Black Earthtongues** *Geoglossum cookeianum*, *G. fallax*, *G. starbaeckii*, *G. umbratile* as well as the **Slimy Earthtongue** *Glutinoglossum glutinosum*. Distinguishing the species of Black Earthtongues even with microscopy is difficult and we await the results of DNA sequencing of our finds by Gareth Griffith at Aberystwyth University to see how accurate our identifications have been.



▲▲ Scarlet Caterpillar Club *Cordyceps militaris* in short turf St.John's Valley (left) and excavated (right) to show the moth pupa to which it was attached in the soil (Photo: Mandy Dee).

November saw the start of the main island fungus survey by John and me and saw the arrival of some new and much needed Fungi reference books, kindly purchased by the LFS as additions to the library. There were already quite a few fungi books in the LFS library— you may ask why we needed more. There are around 15000 species in the UK, so no one book can cover them all. Every new book means more species that we can try to find on the island. One book covers just the genus *Agaricus*, which includes the cultivated mushroom. We found eight species of *Agaricus* this year, one of which, the **Coastal Mushroom** *Agaricus litoralis*, is a new record. A new book on the genus *Cortinarius* added two new species: **Granulated Webcap** *Cortinarius balaustinus*, and **Cortinarius famatus**. The excellent set of four guides by Geoffrey Kibby also purchased by the LFS are proving very useful for the genus *Entoloma*, or Pinkgills; a very tricky group which occur alongside the Waxcaps. They can be dull in colour but sometimes have unusual blue hues, such as **Entoloma huijsmanii** (a new record) shown in the photo. We recorded 20 Pinkgills this year, including an astonishing seven new to Lundy.



▲ *Entoloma huijsmanii*, a Pinkgill, in grass near Rocket Pole and found on the LFS Foray November (photo: John Hedger).



▲ *Typhula micans* fruiting on a dead Stinging Nettle stem collected near Government House Pond November (photo: John Hedger).



▲ **Common Stem Brittlegill** *Psathyrella piluliformis* in the ringing chamber St.Helen's Church November (photo: John Hedger).



▲ **Cups** of *Pseudaleuria fibrillosa* on the path down to the Battery November (photo: John Hedger).

Over the course of two weeks in November a total of 44 new records were added to the island total, 19 of which were gilled fungi. These included **Dark Navel** *Arrhenia obscurata*, **Angel's Bonnet** *Mycena arcangelica*, **Split Fibrecap** *Inocybe rimosa*, **Pierced funnel** *Clitocybe diatreta* and **Floury Funnel** *Clitocybe augeana*. John spent many hours examining rotten logs and dead branches in the wooded combes, as well as the dead stems of plants, adding another 16 species. They included a minute pink Club Fungus **Typhula micans** (see photo) found on Stinging Nettle stems collected next to Government House Pond. Many only have scientific names, but some of the excellent common names include **Birch Blackhead** *Diatrypella favacea*, **Pink Crust** *Corticium roseum*, **Rusty Porecrust** *Fuscoporia ferruginosa* and **Bruising Porecrust** *Ceriporia purpurea*. The final nine new records were rusts and smuts growing on green vegetation. Sharyn Wallace aided us with plenty of good records added to the Logbook in the tavern.

Two successful fungus forays introduced many of the visitors staying on the island to the delights of grassland fungi. On 1st November, 17 visitors and staff joined John and Mandy wandering around Lighthouse Field, SouthWest Field, and up to Old Light Lawn. A total of 33 species were seen, and a great time was had by all. The second foray on 9th November were determined to beat that total, and John, with a team of 20, including the bell-ringing party, extended the route to include the Rocket Pole area, and saw a magnificent 58 species! The bell ringers continued to find interesting fungi, with Alastair Donaldson and Vicky LeFevre discovering a cluster of **Common Stump Brittlegill** *Psathyrella piluliformis* growing from the window frame in the ringing chamber of St Helens Church! If you look carefully at the photograph a **Cellar Spider** *Pholcus phalangioides* can be seen suspended in its web over one of the fruit bodies (thanks to Alan Rowland and Mark West for the identification). When not ringing, Richard Sales and Vicky LeFevre also found the orange cup fungus **Pseudaleuria fibrillosa** growing on bare soil at the top of the path to the Battery. This is uncommon in the UK but steadily recorded on Lundy paths though sometimes crushed by footfall, as in the photograph.

Also in November, the visiting group of Imperial College M.Sc students contributed plenty of records in the logbook . The most unusual was by Isobel Bender of the tiny and elusive **Garlic Waxcap** *Hygrocybe helobia* in the short grass around the foundations of Quarter Wall cottages, only the third record for Lundy and in the same site where it was first found in 2010. Catalina Estrada recorded a **Giant Puffball** *Calvatia gigantea* on the 'manure heap' in Brickfield. This year there were over twenty very large fruitbodies in amongst the Nettles on the heap together with troops of the handsome **Shaggy Parasol** *Chlorophyllum rhacodes* (featured as the cover picture). This resembles the more familiar **Parasol Mushroom** *Macrolepiota procera* but has a very scaly cap and the flesh of the stem surface turns pink when scratched (and it can cause stomach upsets if eaten!). Both Giant Puffball and the Shaggy Parasol were very rarely seen on Lundy until recent years and have probably benefitted from the manure and silage dumps, as has the **Horse Mushroom** *Agaricus arvensis* which can be regularly found on the old silage at the back of the farm.

Lucy Lo-Vel finished the year nicely with records on 30th December of **Oak Mazegill** *Daedalea quercina*, and **Common Earthball** *Scleroderma citrinum*.

More Records please

The additional entries in the logbook in the Tavern are very useful in rounding out our records, so please do keep your eye open, check your sightings in Lundy Fungi and/or other field guides available in the tavern, and write your records in the logbook, along with where they were seen, and what they were growing on. Don't forget to add your name so we can acknowledge you! Many thanks to this year's recorders: John Hedger, Mandy Dee, Louise Cookson, Dave Botcherby, Zoe Roberts, Carol Baillie, Tim Davis, Sharyn Wallace, Richard Sales, Vicky LeFevre, Alastair Donald, Catalina Estrada, Julia Schroeder, Isobel Bender, and Lucy Lo-Vel.

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▼ Table 1. New records of fungi on Lundy in 2023

Latin name	Common name	Where found	Lundy locality	Date
Agaricaceae Gill Fungi				
<i>Agaricus litoralis</i>	Coastal Mushroom	Grass	Upper Lighthouse Field	31/10/2023
<i>Arrhenia obscurata</i>	Dark Navel	Short turf	Quarter Wall Cottages	03/11/2023
<i>Clitocybe augeana</i>	Floury Funnel	Old silage/manure dump	Brick Field	22/11/2023
<i>Clitocybe diatreta</i>	Pierced Funnel	Short turf	Roadside near Golden Well	21/11/2023
<i>Cortinarius balaustinus</i>	Granulated Webcap	Amongst Creeping Willow	Pondbury	03/11/2023
<i>Cortinarius famatus</i>		Under Alder trees	Lower Millcombe by pond	01/11/2023
<i>Crepidotus variabilis</i>	Variable Oysterling	Dead twig of Acer	Secret Garden, Millcombe	01/11/2023
<i>Deconica horizontalis</i>		Sycamore log	St.Helen's Copse	16/05/2023
<i>Deconica pratensis</i>		Short turf	Lower East side path nr QWC	08/11/2023
<i>Entoloma bisporigerum</i> syn. <i>E. caccabus</i>		Medium height grass	Rocket Pole	09/11/2023
<i>Entoloma huijsmanii</i>		Short turf	Rocket Pole	01/11/2023
<i>Entoloma infula</i>		Short turf	Quarter Wall Cottages	03/11/2023
<i>Entoloma minutum</i>		Short turf	QW Mediaeval Wall	30/10/2023
<i>Entoloma ortonii</i>		Short turf	QW Mediaeval Wall	30/10/2023
<i>Entoloma turbidum</i> var. <i>pachylamellatum</i>		Short Heather	by John O'Groats House, North End	07/11/2023
<i>Entoloma vindobonense</i>		Short turf	Near Earthquake	30/10/2023
<i>Galerina jaapii</i>		Moss on a boulder	Lower East Side Path	09/11/2023
<i>Hohenbuehelia unguicularis</i>		Dead Sycamore branch	St.Helen's Copse	09/11/2023
<i>Inocybe rimosa</i>	Split Fibrecap	Under Birch	Quarter Wall Copse	06/11/2023
<i>Lepista sordida</i> var. <i>obscurata</i>	Sordid Blewit	Grass	Outside Millcombe back gate	26/10/2023
<i>Mycena arcangeliana</i>	Angel's Bonnet	Sycamore wood	Lower Millcombe	04/11/2023
<i>Mycena metata</i>		Short grass	Walled Garden, Millcombe	01/11/2023
Clavariaceae Club Fungi				
<i>Typhula micans</i>		Dead stem of Nettle	Government House Pond	09/11/2023

Latin name	Common name	Where found	Lundy locality	Date
<i>Typhula uncialis</i>		Dead leaf of Field Thistle	Back of St John's wall	09/11/2023
Polyporales Shelf Fungi				
<i>Ceriporia purpurea</i>	Bruising Porecrust	Decorticated Sycamore branch	St.Helen's Copse	09/11/2023
<i>Corticium roseum</i>	Pink Crust	Dead Gorse branch	Near Acklands Moor Pond	21/11/2023
<i>Fuscoporia ferruginosa</i>	Rusty Porecrust	Dead Alder branch	Quarter Wall Copse	09/11/2023
Ascomycota Cup and Flask Fungi				
<i>Altermaria solani</i>		Leaf of Woody Nightshade	Millcombe South side woods	31/10/2023
<i>Ceratocystis</i> sp.		Fallen Birch leaf	Quarter Wall Copse	09/11/2023
<i>Chaetomella acutisetata</i>		Petiole of Sycamore	Lower Millcombe	09/11/2023
<i>Cordyceps militaris</i>	Scarlet Caterpillar Club	Grass verge beside main track	St Johns valley	25/10/2023
<i>Diatrypella favacea</i>	Birch Blackhead	Dead Birch branch	Quarter Wall Copse	08/11/2023
<i>Diplosporonea delastrei</i>		Red Campion leaf	Lower Millcombe	04/11/2023
<i>Discosia artocreas</i>		Dead Hawthorn leaf	Upper Millcombe	09/11/2023
<i>Exosporiella fungorum</i> syn. <i>Anomalemma epochnii</i>		Fruitbody of Xylaria longipes	Lower Millcombe	09/11/2023
<i>Hypoderma hederiae</i>		Bleached Ivy leaf	Lower Millcombe	04/11/2023
<i>Lachnum carneolum</i> syn. <i>Dasyscyphus carneolus</i>		Dead Bromus mollis	Lower Millcombe	10/11/2023
<i>Mycosphaerella superflua</i>		Leaf of Stinging Nettle	Lower Millcombe	13/05/2023
<i>Nectria inventa</i>		Dead grass and leaves	Lower Millcombe	04/11/2023
<i>Pezicula carnea</i>		Decorticated Sycamore wood	Lower Millcombe	09/11/2023
<i>Phomopsis salicina</i>		Leaf of Grey Willow	Lower Millcombe	04/11/2023
<i>Phyllachora sylvatica</i>		Leaf of Red Fescue	Jetty Road	13/05/2023
<i>Pilidium acerinum</i>		Dead leaf of Turkey Oak	Quarter Wall Copse	09/11/2023
<i>Propolis farinosa</i> syn. <i>P. versicolor</i>		Dead Turkey Oak branch	Quarter Wall Copse	09/11/2023
<i>Ramularia centranthi</i>		Leaf of Red Valerian	Lower Millcombe	04/11/2023
<i>Ramularia geranii</i>		Leaf of Herb Robert	Upper Millcombe	13/05/2023

Latin name	Common name	Where found	Lundy locality	Date
<i>Ramularia pratensis</i>	Sorrel Felt	Leaf of Sheep's Sorrell	Lower Millcombe	04/11/2023
<i>Ramularia primulae</i>		Leaf of Primrose	Millcombe	13/05/2023
<i>Ramularia scolopendrii</i>		Leaf of Balm-leaved Figwort	Lower Millcombe	13/05/2023
<i>Ramularia taraxaci</i>		Leaf of Dandelion	Farm Buildings	13/05/2023
<i>Rhynchosporium orthosporum</i> syn. <i>Rhynchobrunnera orthospora</i>		Leaf of Cocksfoot	Stoneycroft garden	13/05/2023
<i>Sarcopodium tortuosum</i>		Dead Pine twig	Upper Millcombe	04/11/2023
<i>Scutellinia crinita</i> syn. <i>S. scutellata</i> var. <i>cervorum</i>	Eyelash Cup	Rotted Turkey Oak wood	Quarter Wall Copse	09/11/2023
<i>Septoria stellariae</i>		Leaf of Chickweed	Stoneycroft garden	13/05/2023
<i>Sporidesmium tetracoilium</i>		Sycamore branch	Lower Millcombe	09/11/2023
Ustilaginales	Smuts			
<i>Entyloma ficariae</i>	Celandine Smut	Leaf of Lesser Celandine	Lower Millcombe	13/05/2023
<i>Ustilago striiformis</i>	Striped Smut	Leaf of Cocksfoot	Lower Millcombe	13/05/2023
Uredinales	Rusts			
<i>Puccinia heraclei</i>		Leaf of Hogweed	Stoneycroft walled garden	13/05/2023
<i>Puccinia recondita</i> f.sp. <i>bromalis</i>		Leaf of Bromus hordaceus ssp. Ferranii	Jetty Road	13/05/2023
Myxomycetes	Slime Moulds			
<i>Cribraria intricata</i>		Rotten wood	Lower Millcombe	21/11/2023
<i>Cribraria violacea</i>		Very rotten soft wood	Lower Millcombe	21/11/2023



▲ *Scarlet Waxcap* *Hygrocybe coccinea* on the Airfield November (photo: Mandy Dee).



▲ *Eyelash Cup* *Scutellinia crinita* on rotten wood Quarter Wall Copse November (photo: John Hedger).

Surveys of fungi on Lundy

John Hedger

The preceding account by Mandy Dee summarises the records of species of fungi new to Lundy and found in 2023. In addition, surveys of the abundance of fruit bodies of macrofungi (mushrooms and toadstools) were made at two sites: the **Airfield** and at the **North End**, both in November. These counts add to those from previous years, stretching back to 2006.



▲ A group of Imperial College M.Sc. students and staff counting fungal fruiting bodies on SW Field on the 22nd November (photo: John Hedger).

Counts of fruiting bodies of fungi on the Airfield

The Airfield counts were made by the visiting group of Imperial College M.Sc (Environmental Studies) students led by Dr Julia Schroeder who come to Lundy in November to study the Sparrow population but who also diversified in 2022 to counting the fungi on the Airfield, giving rise to the intriguingly titled 'Sparrows and Fungi' public lecture given in the St. Helen's Centre at the end of their week on the island. This exercise was repeated on 21st November 2023. Groups of students were spread across the width (50m) of the eastern end of the Airfield and progressed down its length (529m) to the western end, recording numbers of fruit bodies of the different species of grassland fungi as they went, using the LFS publication 'Lundy Fungi' to check the identities. A calculation shows they checked 26450 square metres of turf! *
*thanks to Alan Rowland for these measurements