

Lundy Fungi: A Photographic Guideby **John Hedger & David George**

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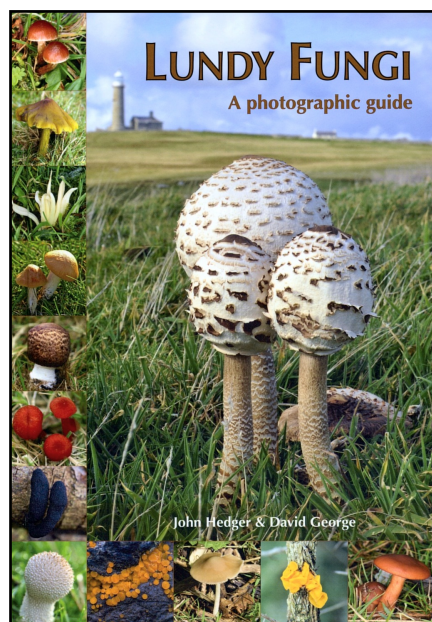
Lundy Fungi: A photographic guide is the product of some 15 years work by the authors with the support of many others suitably credited in the acknowledgements. The volume lives up to its name with an excellent range of photographs complementing the text for the 250 or so species covered, which in turn represents almost half of the total ever recorded on the island.

The introduction provides a very helpful entry into the world of mycology with explanations of the terms used in the book and a section on fungal taxonomy with reference to the different groups of fungi found on the island. This section is well illustrated by Sharon Read's line drawings which provide a wealth of information in a very clear manner. Throughout the chapter the discussion is always framed in terms of the fungi on Lundy, or the island's habitat, but holds the reader's interest (even for someone not familiar with the island). The widespread use of popular as well as Latin names reinforces the user-friendly style of the publication.

The succeeding chapters are organised on the basis of habitat type with the first, and most substantial, covering grasslands. The stars of this section are the (usually) colourful waxcaps, many of which lend themselves to identification in the field. The waxcap pages are ordered by colour group making it straightforward for the user to home in on the most likely candidates. Fungal taxonomy is something of a moving target these days and here the authors have wisely stuck with the waxcap names used in the standard work for this assemblage (Boertmann, 2010) which will be the ones most people will be familiar with.

The next chapter covers fungi found in grassland with bracken – a vegetation zone which is shown on the vegetation map as extending along much of the eastern flank of the island. The inclusion of bracken allows for a number of very interesting species including Bracken Plums and Custard: a relative of the widely distributed Plums and Custard fungus which is associated with conifers. This bracken associate was only described as a distinct species in 2015 thanks to DNA analysis.

Dung fungi are covered in the next chapter, followed by a chapter on fungi of wet places, a particularly useful section as few books cover this as a distinct fungal habitat. The next section (heathland) will be familiar to grassland enthusiasts and is followed by the woodland chapter which provides an extensive list given that the island supports a relatively limited area of trees and scrub compared with the other vegetation zones. An interesting woodland species is *Perenniporia ochroleuca* which was first recorded in the British Isles in 1999 and turned up on Lundy in 2011.



The habitat chapters conclude with fungi on living plants which provides the reader with examples of rusts, smuts and mildews found on Lundy together with a selection of other fungi affecting leaves and stems.

The volume rounds off with a glossary of terms (invaluable, and helpfully cross-referenced to line drawings where applicable), a comprehensive reading list, and a checklist of all fungi recorded on the island. The list includes common names, habitat and an indication of frequency.

Who will benefit from this publication? Certainly visitors to Lundy will find it a very useful handbook: comprehensive yet portable enough to carry to the field in a pocket or rucksack. It will help them identify many of the fungal species they encounter and thus add to collective knowledge of fungal distribution on the island.

A wider audience will also appreciate this volume. Anyone with an interest in the fungal assemblages on islands or coastal habitat will find the book particularly useful – I know that I will be carrying my copy on coastal walks in Pembrokeshire.

David Harries

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