

FNCV FUNGI GROUP FORAY TO BALDRY CROSSING

5 JUNE 2005

Baldry Crossing in Greens Bush (Mornington Peninsula National Park)

Recent rains rewarded our forayers with lots of fresh young specimens in what proved to be a very fruitful foray. We recorded over 140 specimens, including 14 Fungimap target species.

Different forms of *Cortinarius* were found ranging from the pale lilac *C. albidoviolaceus*; an unidentified hygrophanous species with 4 or 5 ring zones on the cap ranging from orange to tan to pale buff; *Dermocybe austroveneta* and an unidentified red *Dermocybe*. We again found *Cortinarius fibrillosus* (they were here last year). The reddish brown conical cap, with a dense covering of pale hairs, resembles an *Inocybe* (indeed a synonym is *I. fibrillosa*).

Entolomas were also abundant. The gills of *Entolomas* often have a rosy tint due their angular pink spores. There is a wide variety of colours in this genus, ranging from white, green, blue, orange, buff, brown and black. Although the colours are not as brilliant as *Hygrocybe* spp., they can be very attractive. *E. aff. panniculum* has a beautiful deep blue cap and the stipe is silky blue becoming white below the cap. *E. viridomarginatum* has a green scaly cap with orange undertones and is distinguished by the dark green edges to the gills. *E. sericellum* is a silky white species often with a central depression in the cap.

Many small *Cystolepiota* sp. were also found amongst the leaf litter and twigs. The small caps (less than 1 cm diameter) are adorned with delicate white powdery veil remnants dangling from the margins. A hand lens revealed that the cap and stem are covered in fine meal. At first glance, they are similar to the *Melanophyllum haematospermum* which we also found. However, while *Cystolepiota* have free white gills and white spores, *M. haematospermum* have dark red gills (somewhat like dried blood) that shed a dirty green spore print.

Mycenas were also well represented: beautiful orange *M. leaiana*; *M. kuurkacea* that weeps red droplets when bruised; *M. albidofusco* with the pale 'lens' at the cap apex; abundant *M. cystidiosa* in masses of sterile threads; tiny white *M. albidocapillaris* group on long translucent white stems (becoming honey-coloured at the base) emitting a nitrous odour (this is possibly *M. maldea*); and the greyish *M. subvulgaris* that has stipes so slimy that they slip through your fingers if you attempt to pluck them.

Russulas included the bright red caps of *R. persanguinea* and the purplish caps and yellow gills of *R. pupureoflava*. The white gills of *R. flocktoniae* contrast beautifully with the orange cap and stem.

The final find of the day was an unusually small 'Beefsteak Fungus' (*Fistulina hepatica*, a Fungimap target) growing at the base of a eucalypt trunk. The slimy brownish cap and pallid pores differed from the bright crimson tones often found in younger specimens. However, the distinctly separable tubes of the pores confirmed its identity.

Thanks again to Virgil Hubregtse for taking the field notes, and Tom May and Pat Grey for identifying specimens.

A full list of species found on this foray is available from me.

Paul George