

Office update -

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Dear Members,

Welcome to the 1st issue of the BMS Newsletter for 2020. An upcoming event in March 2020 is the chance to see the **Fantastic Fungi Day** screening in cinemas across the Country. To quote from the films advertising, 'On March 26th.2020, *Fantastic Fungi Day* is bringing the fungal kingdom and all of its inspiration and beauty above ground for a one-of-a-kind immersive conscious-shifting screening event that will interconnect global communities as we mirror the wisdom of the underground mycelium network and connect with one another.'

For further details go to the webpage at the link below.

<https://fantasticfungi.com/the-day/>

A former BMS member, Dr Ricardo Galán, has asked us to inform the membership that due to his recent retirement, he is offering for sale his personal extensive library of articles, books (including classical) and reviews.

Below are two links (same content, but different websites) to the titles and prices of the Inventory:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xNwg-Vi3z7456T7u0jVYdPcEdLToRDsx?usp=sharing>

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lk6xo81gjt1v18/AACb2CnnV19QILMLcXV5-5e7a?dl=0>

They're available in .pdf and .xls, with general pictures.

Shipping costs are not included in the price list, so you can calculate them through website: www.packlink.es

Feel free to share these links with other colleagues, societies, official entities, mycological forums... etc.

If you are interested in purchasing some items, you can contact him on this email: Ricardo.galan@uah.es

Membership: *The cost of BMS membership has remained unchanged for the last six years. Journal costs do rise to reflect the cost of these to the BMS from the Publisher, but those who choose to take E-access can also take print copies of journals at a reduced cost.*

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BMS Autumn Open Meeting

Theme: *TBC*

London, 21st November 2020

*Saturday 21st November 2020 – Lady Lisa Sainsbury Lecture Theatre,
Jodrell Laboratory, Jodrell Gate, Kew Road, Kew Gardens, TW9 3DS*

Come to hear about the latest fungal research.

10:30-11:00: Coffee & Tea.

11:00-11:30: Prof. Ulf Büntgen, University of Cambridge

Environmental scientist working on global change and fungi.

11:30-12:00: Dr. Taylor Lyons & Bruna Giribaldi, Imperial College London

Biomedical scientists investigating action and clinical uses of *Psilocybe*.

12:00-14:00: Lunch break.

14:00-14:30: Dr. Merlin Sheldrake

Tropical ecologist and author of *Entangled Life*.

14:30-14:50: Rowena Hill, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew & Queen Mary Univ.

PhD student investigating fungi within seeds.

14:50-15:20: Prof. Katie Field, University of Leeds

Biologist researching physiology, ecology and evolution of symbiosis.

15:20-15:40: Open Discussion

This page will be updated as information becomes available; please revisit regularly, or alternatively, the BMS website page for the Autumn Open Meeting is located at link below.

<https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/mycology/bms-autumn-meeting>

UNDERGRADUATE BURSARY REPORT

Supervisor: Dr Andrew Armitage, NIAB EMR

Student: Alice Smith

Project Title:

Investigating Host Specificity of the Fungal Pathogen *Alternaria alternata* to Strawberry and Pear.

Fungal pathogens, including the *Alternaria alternata* species group, are an ever-increasing cause of concern for agriculture as a changing climate expands their natural range. This, along with the rise of international plant movement, elevates the risk of establishment of these fungal pathogens, increasing economic damage and waste production from affected postharvest crops (Meena, 2017). *A. alternata* is found throughout the environment, causes a variety of plant diseases and is an opportunistic human pathogen with saprophytic nature (Armitage, 2019). Within the *A. alternata* species group, host adapted pathotypes have arisen, producing elevated levels of disease on specific plant hosts (Meena, 2017). Previous studies have already produced key information about the effects of *A. alternata* on apple and Asian pear varieties (DEFRA, 2004) but little is known about the effects on soft fruit. With apple and pear pathotypes already listed as quarantine pathogens, with risk of establishment in Europe (DEFRA, 2004), research is needed into how other high value crops will be affected by the appearance of this fungal pathogen and which cultivars are worst affected. This project investigated the host adaption of *A. alternata* to strawberry and European pear and tried to enhance the diagnostic tools already available to help control its spread. My research was carried out in the Genetics, Genomics and Breeding department at the NIAB EMR institute in Kent, with the help and support of an experienced fungal systematics and plant pathology team.

The hypothesis '*A. alternata* pathotype isolates cause higher levels of infection on their specific plant hosts' was investigated by developing pathogenicity tests using detached leaf assays, to better understand the host specific adaption. *A. alternata* can contain conditionally dispensable chromosomes (CDC's) - additional chromosomes that are advantageous for specific niches, but aren't required for growth (Hatta, 2002). These are small and contain toxin biosynthesis genes clusters which control host specific pathogenicity, with different pathotypes carrying distinct gene clusters. Isolates may carry no extra chromosomes at all making them not host specific (Hatta, 2002). The genomes of many isolates used in these tests have been characterised previously from the NIAB EMR *Alternaria* culture collection (Armitage, 2019), and this sequence data was used to identify potential new diagnostic loci for pathotype identification and molecular differentiation.

A range of isolates from apple (635, 743 and 1166), pear (650 and 90.0512) and strawberry (1490 and 1492) pathotypes, as well as non-pathotype isolates (648 and 1082), were used to assess the virulence of *A. alternata* on a number of cultivars of strawberry and pear. These were grown on 1% PDA media; a spore solution of 1×10^6 spores per ml was harvested for each isolate. Spore suspensions were used to inoculate the abaxial surface of a leaf at six points. One leaf for each isolate was placed in a sealed tray, along with a mock inoculated leaf infected with sterile distilled water (SDW), forming a single treatment block. Five replicate blocks were established for four strawberry cultivars Fenella, Elsanta, Malling Centenary and Cambridge Favourite and three pear cultivars Conference, Nijisseiki and Celebration. The inoculated leaves were incubated for 7 days at 20°C with 16 hours of light and 8 hours of dark.

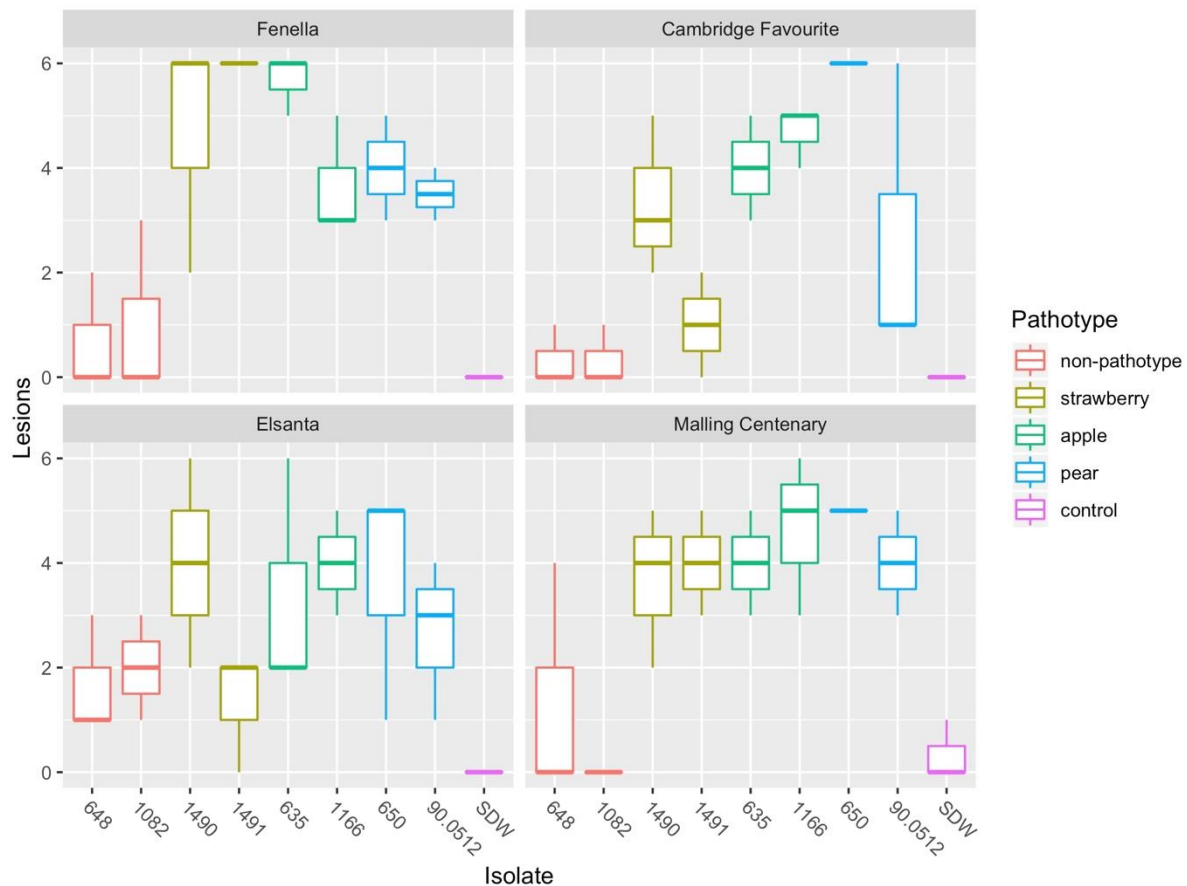


Figure 1 Lesion development per leaf of *Alternaria alternata* isolates of different pathotypes infecting strawberry cultivars Fenella, Elsanta, Cambridge Favourite and Malling Centenary, SDW stands for Sterile Distilled water.

While the results for the strawberry cultivar pathology tests were very promising, the pear pathology tests were contaminated and therefore didn't yield any conclusive results. This may be due to the quality of the leaves (from fungicide free trees) or the incubating conditions. Two replicates of the strawberry path test were also removed from the analysis due to contamination issues. Despite this, the strawberry cultivars had good lesion development and showed optimal distinction after 7 days. These results show different cultivars of strawberry have differing levels of susceptibility to *A. alternata*, as can be seen in Figure 1. The non-pathotype isolates showed similar levels of infection to controls in all cultivars except Elsanta. The strawberry specific isolates 1491 and 1490 have a very high rate of lesion development on Fenella leaves (6 lesions on every leaf for 1491), as does isolate 635, however the other isolates had considerably lower observed infection rates. Malling Centenary had consistent high levels of lesion development for every isolate containing toxin genes. Elsanta and Cambridge Favourite have lower mean infection rates for pathotypic isolates, with 1491 showing similar lesion development to non-pathotype isolates. These results show that all three tested pathotypes led to enhanced disease on strawberry in this study over non-pathotypic isolates. It also demonstrated cultivar specific responses, highlighting potentially resistant/susceptible cultivars for future strawberry breeding.

Developing key skills was also an integral part of my studentship, helping to improve my core lab skills as well as specialist techniques. By performing the plant pathology assays I learned fungal systematics and effector biology, as well as culturing licensed organisms using aseptic technique and teaching me culture maintenance. Molecular biology also played a part in the project, using DNA extractions, PCR and gel electrophoresis to confirm the different isolates present, as well as bioinformatics for handling sequence

data and BLAST searching. Throughout the process, data analysis has played a crucial role, from experimental design to statistical analysis.

During my time at NIAB EMR I also experienced other aspects of research and life. By observing and assisting PhD students in their projects I got to practice new techniques, for example CTAB DNA extraction of mildew, as well as practical skills used in crop sciences including cherry stone extraction (Figure 2), strawberry plant propagation and strawberry leaf micro propagation.



Figure 2 Eduardo Vignati, a PhD student at NIAB EMR, and I after a very messy cherry stone extraction!

References –

Meena, M., Gupta, S. K., et al (2017). *Alternaria* Toxins: Potential Virulence Factors and Genes Related to Pathogenesis. *Frontiers in microbiology*, 8, 1451.

Armitage, D. A., Cockerton, M. H., et al (2019) Genomics, evolutionary history and diagnostics of the *Alternaria alternata* species group including apple and Asian pear pathotypes.

Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs (2004) Investigation of quarantine and emerging fungal pathogens in support of plant health pest risk analysis, management and policy. Final Project Report.

Hatta, R., Ito, K., et al. (2002). A conditionally dispensable chromosome controls host-specific pathogenicity in the fungal plant pathogen *Alternaria alternata*. *Genetics*, 161(1), 59–70.

UNDERGRADUATE BURSARY REPORT

Supervisor: Prof Lynne Boddy (MBE)

Student: Geoffrey Liddell

Project: Exploring Fungal Decay in Oak

I thoroughly enjoyed the 10 weeks I spent working in Cardiff's Fungal Ecology lab under the supervision of Prof Lynne Boddy. Given my engineering rather than life sciences background, and being completely new to the study of ecology, Matt Wainhouse acted as mentor, and two Masters students Bruno Malicki and Elliot Stubbs helped teach me the ropes. I was given a thorough grounding in general lab skills including aseptic technique, culturing, experimental procedure and setup as well as being involved with plenty of fieldwork. One highlight was exploring the ancient oaks in the deer park at Windsor Great Parks.

The summer started with several excursions to the Forest of Dean and Savernake Forest for one of Matt's projects; this involved the coring of oak trees to gain an insight into the communities of fungi living inside, particularly in the heartwood. The procedure was to chip out a small square of bark then screw in a flame sterilised 45cm borer, allowing a long cylinder of wood to be removed into a clean straw: this was a challenge with cores containing a lot of decay, which would crumble and prevent the borer from catching. Two cores were taken from each tree then the bark replaced.



Back in the lab, one core was stored at -80°C for reference in case of contamination. Chips were taken at 1cm intervals from the other core and placed on agar containing lactic acid to select for oak specialists such as *Fistulina hepatica*, whose growth might be too slow on agar of neutral pH. After the main culturing work was done Matt taught me to use a DNA extraction kit and introduced PCR and gel electrophoresis. We were then able to confirm any identifications made from the appearance of the cultures as well as the large number of mystery fungi. *F. hepatica* and *Laetiporus sulphureus* were the dominant species in the heartwood of the oak trees we had cored, in line with Matt's expectation, but a large number of endophytes were also present, especially in the sapwood. Another, unexpected result was a single appearance of *Bjerkandera adusta*, generally common, but not observed from any of the other cores. Oak wood has a high concentration of tannins, making it inhospitable for many organisms, which is part of the reason that the occurrence of *B. adusta* was unexpected; The literature suggested that it would have no growth above 0.1% tannin concentration, but that isolated from the oak grew profusely on plates containing 0.5% (w/v) tannic acid; a good motivation for the study of a range of isolates of the same species.



Towards the end of the 10 weeks I built up enough confidence to start setting up a preliminary experiment, which took cues from the work done on oak. A number of species' growth rates were tested on 0.25% tannic acid (w/v): as might be expected, generalists such as *T. versicolor* appeared to grow more slowly on tannic treated agar, whereas specialists like *F. hepatica* had faster growth rates. Another experiment set up interactions between primary and secondary colonisers. Secondary colonisers would be expected to out compete primary colonisers, but on tannic acid, this was not the case: *T. versicolor* for instance was outcompeted or reached deadlock with all five primary colonisers chosen.

Unfortunately there was not enough data to draw any conclusions from either of these experiments, but on 5th October I was able to present a poster at the Bristol Fungus Day event, organised by Rich Wright alongside Bristol City Mycology. This allowed some reflection on the summer and some extra experience in science communication! I have growing curiosity about trees and the fungi living inside them and hope to learn lots more in the future, and for now I look forward to taking what I have learnt back to another university term, where I will be specialising in chemical and biological engineering.

Geoffrey Liddell

UK Fungus Day Event - Bristol



5th October 2019 – Post event funding report

Overview:

Bristol Fungus Day was held as planned on Saturday 5th October 2019, with the event open to the public from 10.00 till 16.00. The aim of the event was to shed light on the understated role of fungi, from plant symbiosis to medicine and many other aspects.

The event was held at Arnos Vale Cemetery and utilised the whole space: table displays, and student posters were situated in one chapel, while talks were held in the other. Charity stalls, artists and cultivation demonstrations were outside in the wooded area in the upper part of the site, which is also where the forays left from. Fungi-themed artwork was scattered along the paths throughout the site, while the children's eco-crafting workshops were held in marquees at the bottom of the site to facilitate easy access. Food stalls for the public were also in the bottom of the site, while volunteer food was sited up the top to avoid confusion. There was also all-ages entertainment in the form of walkabout performers and fungi folklore storytelling. Although talks were ticketed, entry to these and to the rest of the event was entirely free.

The day was an overall success, with 605 attendees (not repeat entry) recorded through the gates by our volunteers during the day. The talks were attended at an average of 74% capacity (see appendix 1), and the 3 forays that took place during the day were so popular that people had to be turned away.

Attendee demographic:

The event attracted a diverse demographic of attendees from Bristol and beyond (Figure 1). According to data collected from Billetto (ticketing platform for the talks), 26% of talk attendees were from Bristol, and 13% from London, with a further 4% of attendees from Bridgewater, Glastonbury and Nottingham. One group also reported that they'd driven all the way from Cornwall specifically for the event.

Analysis of our Facebook event data shows that the event attracted people from all age groups (Figures 2-3). The age groups most strongly represented were 25-44 year olds. The largest number event responses were from the

25-34 year old group with 27.8% women and 13.6% men. The gender disparity seen within this group was mirrored in other groups, with between 3% and 8% more women responding to the event in every age group bar under 18s. This amounted to roughly double the number of women responding to the event than men in most age categories and overall. These online figures were mirrored on the ground (see appendix 3 and 4).

Volunteer hours and roles:

The event was run by a core team of 6 passionate fungi fanatics, and supported by a further 23 volunteers, who were recruited via Facebook posts and word of mouth. There were 27 contributors (e.g. speakers, charities, activity leaders, etc.), who took part in the event in return for travel expenses, meals on the day and material costs. The pre-event organisation took the core team around 450 hours to deliver, with members also on site for 9hrs to facilitate running the event on the day. The core team was assisted by a team of volunteers working between 2 and 5hr shifts in various roles including site build/break down, registering public attendance and collecting feedback, and stewarding.

Our estimate on the overall volunteer time for the core team, support team and contributors to prepare and host the event is between 750 and 800 hours.

Breakdown of core team roles/hours:

Rich Wright - 320 hours - Funding bid writing, site booking, admin and booking systems, project management, contributor selection and coordination, event planning, health and safety, volunteer coordination, graphics and materials design, event promotion, social media management, post writing, bookings management, lead event coordinator on the day.

Kat Lyons – 40 hours event planning, co-ordination and transportation, health & safety, promotion, performance and children’s area organisation and facilitation, area coordinator on the day.

Matt Wainhouse – 20 hours funding bid writing, contributor selection, volunteer coordination

Esme Worrell - 30 hours - Event coordination, health and safety, event administration.

Promotion and Marketing:

The event was promoted through traditional and social media, as well as through posters, flyers and word of mouth.

Social media:

The Facebook events page reached 54.5K through event discussion and promotion, with 2.2K responding to posts inside the event and 1.8K responding as ‘interested’. Although 363 responded as ‘attending’, the actual number of attendees that were recorded on the day was much higher at 605 attendees. There were a total of 4.2K views on the event page (Figure 4).

Traditional media:

In the week leading up to the event Rich Wright was interviewed for an online video interview by the BBC, this was released on the day.

Rich also spoke briefly about the event on BBC Radio Bristol on the morning of the event.

Esme Worrell spoke on Ujima Radio, a Bristol community radio station that celebrates African and Caribbean culture- communities who lie outside of the usual target for ecological education events.

Other: The core team also undertook leafleting and postering throughout the Bristol area, focusing on areas such as libraries and community centres, as well as local shops, pubs and shops in different areas in order to reach members of as many diverse communities as possible.

Questionnaire feedback and Summary:

The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive (Figure 5). We delivered 2 separate surveys to attendees- one during the event and one afterwards via the event bookings list and Facebook events page. The purpose of this before/after survey was to see how the attendee’s perception and understanding changed as a result of the event. This was done by asking attendees to list the words they associated with fungi (Figure 6 and 7). The questionnaire on the day was carried out by volunteers approaching attendees and asking them to fill out hard-copy surveys, while the post-event survey was all online.

Pre and post event responses to those surveyed seem to indicate a widening scope of associations with the word Fungi post event, with 'symbiosis' and 'medicines' seeming to be especially strong. We attribute this to two of speakers talking on these subjects and others contributors on the day. 'Mushrooms' and 'decomposition' were strong before and after and there was also quite a strong showing from 'microorganisms'. Interestingly, word associations with negative connotations (mould/contamination/mycosis/poisoning) and loose associations (amoeba/ bacteria/photosynthesis) were selected less in the post-event questionnaire, suggesting more positive associations with fungi and a better understanding of them by attendees after the event.

In terms of the 5 areas of the event we asked respondents to comment on, 'quality of activities', 'quality of contributors' and 'stewards' were all rated as very good by the majority, with the other two areas- 'event promotion' and 'talk booking process'- rated as majority good.

Comments from form responses:

- "I came with my 2 children aged 5 and 10 and we all just feel in love with all things fungus. We heard about it as we saw a leaflet stuck up in our local Sainsbury's. Did the fungi walk, blown away by the man's knowledge. Everyone was so lovely."
- "I loved fungus day! I hope you get funding for future events. Thank you to all contributors x"
- "Overall, I thought it was really informative, fun, and the groups running the stalls were really friendly and approachable. Very well organised and promoted."

Selected social media feedback:

- "Thank you to everyone who helped put this excellent event together. We had a really great day, fun and informative. Looking forward to next year already!"
- "It was a great event and it was an honour to be part of. Thank you so much for all of your hard work behind the scenes!"
- "Thank you to everyone involved for an excellent day, we had a great time and loved the food and the venue. The talk on medicinal mushrooms was excellent and the effort that MGUK put into their amazing array of mushrooms, mycelium and products really made it worth trekking up from Cornwall for the day."
- "Brilliant day, thank you to all the speakers, volunteers, stalls, walking tours guides and to Arnos Vale (brilliant site for it!)"

Other outcomes

Documentation:

Thanks to some additional funding from the British Mycological Society we were able to hire Black Bark Films as videographers and documenters of the day. The footage gathered from the day is currently being edited, but this will result in a 1.5 minute show reel for the event for use in future promotion and fundraising. We also captured 3 of the talks (Prof. Lynne Boddy, Prof. Martin Bidartondo and Attila Fodi), with permission from the speakers to distribute for ongoing educational use. We hope to have the edits released early next year and intend to share them with the British Ecological Society.

Conclusion

The funding kindly provided by British Ecological Society was fundamental to the delivery of the event at this scale. We are delighted with the reach and positive responses to the day's event, perhaps most by the number of highly engaged children, some of whom we have seen since and are now fungi fanatics spreading the word to their friends in the playground at school. The questionnaires also suggest a shift away from negative associations with fungi and a greater understanding of their overall role.

We exceeded our own goal of 500 attendees and more than doubled the highest number of attendees from our previous event. We are especially pleased of the number of visitors that travelled to the event from across the

country. The site was perfect in many ways and the staff at Arnos Vale Cemetery made our setup and strike-down comfortable.

We are very proud of the immense amount of time our core team, stewards and contributors gave to the event. In a post event meeting the time taken to deliver the event by unpaid volunteers was a subject of concern from all parties. Rich Wright in particular took on an unmanageable amount of responsibility to deliver the event. This is a strong factor in our decisions about how to deliver the event in 2020. We hope to be able to secure extra funding to create some paid positions or alternatively charging for entry or reducing the scope of the event, both of which we would like to avoid.

Fungi have been rightly called ‘the hidden Kingdom’, partly due to their ubiquitously present but unseen structures, but also due to the lack of general awareness of their vital roles in our environments. We are proud to say that our event has delivered on raising awareness and appreciation of Fungi, from those that had no knowledge on arrival through to those that already had a good understanding but had the opportunity to learn from leading researchers. We would like to extend enormous thanks to British Ecological Society and British Mycological Society for making this event possible.



The Full report including details of the talks, displays and activities can be downloaded from the BMS website using the link below.

https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/application/files/8615/8022/9320/UK_Fungus_Day_2019_Bristol_Events_Report.pdf

Prof Geoffrey M. Gadd
Awarded the Mineralogical Society-Schlumberger Award 2020

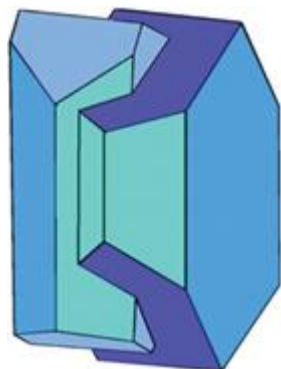


This annual award was founded in 1990 through the generous sponsorship of Schlumberger Cambridge Research and has the purpose:

'To recognise scientific excellence in mineralogy and its applications; mineralogy being broadly defined and reflecting the diverse and worldwide interests and membership of the Society with its various specialist groups. Evidence of such excellence should be in the form of published work by a currently active scientist. Nominations on behalf of both younger scientists and well-established workers would be welcomed. 'Nominees do not have to be Members of the Mineralogical Society.'

The Mineralogical Society has decided that Prof Geoffrey M. Gadd (Dundee University, BMS Treasurer and Past President) should receive the *Mineralogical Society-Schlumberger Award* for 2020. The awarding of the medal relates to Prof Gadd's research in the geomicrobiology and geomycology field that is at the interface of biology, geology and mineralogy.

The medal presentation will take place in 2020.



Mineralogical Society

<https://www.minersoc.org/msinfo.html>

<https://www.minersoc.org/schlumberger-award.html>

Buckinghamshire Fungus Group



UK Fungus Day Display – Mushroom Magic – October 5th 2019

County Museum, Aylesbury

Reading through the start of last year's report for this event, I could almost quote it word for word again this time. Yet another incredibly dry and warm September in the Chiltern area of the county had us all convinced that our annual display really was going to be a complete failure this time. If we'd been putting this event on a few days earlier this would certainly have been the case because the rains which eventually arrived a week or so beforehand seemed to be having remarkably little effect on triggering our woodland floor species into action. All the much needed moisture was rapidly absorbed by the hungry trees and it was not until two days before UK Fungus Day that the fungi at last started making an appearance. Still virtually no mycorrhizal species were in evidence in most areas, however, but we were lucky enough to chance upon a few prize specimens of *Amanita muscaria*, surely a species without which no fungus display would be complete.



On the day our team of helpers worked non-stop for a couple of hours to get everything ready for the off at 11.00. Having set out and labelled the 140 odd different species there was just time to don the T-shirts and take the customary photo before the public started arriving.

We were all soon busy chatting and answering the usual inquiries about edibility, poisonous species, where all the specimens had been collected from, etc. etc. It's always satisfying to observe the disbelief on the faces particularly of the children who've only seen 'that red one with the white spots' as illustrations in story books, then to be able to explain how the spots came to be there.

Smells are always popular too and the (tightly contained) pristine specimen of *Phallus impudicus* came in for some oohs and aahhhs, though we made sure the lid stayed firmly in place.

Derek's microscope and sporeprint corner was kept busy and it was pleasing to see children peering down at spores and gill edges in amazement. The monitor screens linked to both his scope and to our PowerPoint loop containing over 600 species photographed in the county certainly held people's attention too.

The children not only enjoyed the array of fresh specimens but were soon producing both highly fanciful and colourful play-doh fungus models, also a few which bore some semblance of reality, all encouraged by member Jackie who took this section completely under her wing with boundless enthusiasm. After that there were colouring sheets to complete and add to the collage wall of fungi, followed by badge-making, all ably organised by Museum representative and member Mike.





There were information boards with posters, BMS leaflets, also free Oyster Mushroom-growing kits (all 60 went like hot cakes), together with a selection of books for people to browse. Some brought in their own fungi for identification and which were then added to the display table which was bulging by 4.00 when it was time to pack everything away and clear up.

Though we were not as busy this time as in the last two years, the Museum staff estimated that we had around 400 visitors so we were well satisfied and felt that all in all the effort needed to put the event together was just about justified. So a big thank you is due to all the valiant helpers, BFG members who gave up time on the day or collected in advance.

Penny Cullington

A few more photos to give a flavour of the day.



Fungal Photo Corner



Picture of a young Fungi enthusiast – used by kind permission

Have you taken a stunning image of fungi that you want to share? Big or small, laboratory or field you could be the next to appear in 'Fungi Photo Corner'. Send your high-resolution images to ukfungusday@britmycolsoc.info not forgetting to include as much information as possible about what, where and when it was taken. Please note, that in sending your photographs to us you are allowing the British Mycological Society to include the image on our UK Fungus Day photo gallery (Images on the gallery are covered under a license for Creative Commons Attribution (Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.0.) and to reproduce the image to appear in its printed and online versions of Mycologist News'.

Field Mycology Award

The BMS Field Mycology Award will be awarded to recognise a person who has contributed extraordinarily to the advancement of British field mycology. Its recipients will have contributed significantly to one or more of the following: conservational, taxonomic, recording or educational activities. This may include, regularly led field events or workshops, written extensively or lectured widely about fungal conservation or identification of fungi.

Nominations for this award should be in the form of a nominating letter, which includes an overview of the nominee's outstanding contribution. Nominations of deceased individuals will not be accepted. Nominations are accepted for consideration until January 1st of the award year. Send a single copy of a nomination by mail or email to: admin@britmycolsoc.info

Members are asked to submit ideas for consideration for this award, the nominating letter does not need to be extensive just a brief supporting statement as to why you feel the individual should receive the award is adequate. We have awarded it three times so far, see at the link below.

<https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/society/grants-and-prizes/awards/field-mycology-award>

All costs include the BMS member discount. (Non-members + £30) Couples = one form only. Partners of members classed as members

BRITISH MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD MEETINGS 2020 –
PLEASE READ THE SEPARATE DETAILS OF EVENTS BEFORE BOOKING

Event: Spring Fungal Recording & Study Week
Didcot Civic Centre, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN
Saturday April 20th to Sunday April 26th (6 days only)

Workroom Only @ £40 for 6 Days: Deposit £10 only payable when accommodation has been secured

Please save me a place in the workroom while I arrange my accommodation

I agree to my name and email being circulated to other participants so we can arrange joint accommodation

I do not agree to my name and email being circulated to other participants

Please confirm booking by email and pay £10 deposit as soon as your accommodation has been arranged.
There are plenty of places to eat out (or takeaways) walking distance from the Civic Centre.

Please confirm you booking before the end of December. I would like a lift from the railway station

Event: Autumn Fungal Recording & Study Week
Charnwood Arms, Beveridge Lane, Bardon Hill, Coalville, LE67 1TB
Monday October 19th to Monday October 26th

Please book me onto this event: I enclose the £30 per person booking fee; non-refundable unless a room is unavailable

Accommodation - Tick one box only

Single occupancy room only

I prefer a shared occupancy room if available

We are a couple and prefer a double room

We are a couple but prefer a twin room

I would like to book for Workroom only

ALL ROOMS ARE EN-SUITE (check web site for photos)

@ £411 per person per week B&B

@ £371 per person per week B&B If not available £411 as above

@ £371 per person per week B&B

@ £371 per person per week B&B

@ £70 (for the week)

Choose your own dinner each evening (Hungry Horse Menu) and add to room tag and pay at the end of week.

The August 2019 menu had a choice of 15 standard meals from £5.69 to £7.69, or two meals for £9.49: Starters from £2.49

Note: Above prices are a guide only. The menu will probably change by October 2020.

Purchase packed lunch from nearby outlets. Greggs & Shell Garage are very close.

Please book before the end of December. I would like a lift from the railway station

Name(s) BMS Member

Nearest town or city: * County:

Home Phone: Mobile (emergency use only)

Email:

Diet: Regular Vegetarian Pescetarian Other Please State:

I enclose deposits of £30 per person per event making a total of £..... and I understand that full payment is due when requested by the Field Events Manager. Payments can only be refunded if a replacement participant is found, therefore travel insurance should be considered.

I have read the '**Risk Assessment**' on **page 16**, and agree to follow all the recommendations as far as is practicable.

I also agree to the information submitted on this form, the cheque number, amount, date, and name on cheque, being kept electronically by the BMS officers and their auditors: (Please note: We do not record: The name of your bank, the bank code or the sort code). If you are happy for your email address to be shared with other participants on an event please tick here

Registered Charity: 276503

Signed:

Please make cheques payable to: 'The British Mycological Society'

Post to: Peter R Smith, BMS Field Events Manager, 16 White Street, Derby, DE22 1HA

Email: psmith840@gmail.com

BRITISH MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD MEETINGS 2020
BOOKING PROCEDURE AND GENERAL INFORMATION ON EVENTS

The programme of events arranged by the Field Events Manager and approved by the Field Mycology Committee appear on the Society's web site www.britmycolsoc.org.uk along with a booking form and further details, these can be downloaded from the website, There is a deposit usually £30.00 per person, per event which should be sent to the Foray Manager with a completed booking form for each participant. Any payment is only refundable if a replacement participant is found. For some events it is possible to attend on a part time basis or to be non-resident (please enquire) a fee for workroom space, administration and tutoring costs will then be applicable. The Society welcomes non-members to its events but they are required to pay an extra £30 per event attended. However for a similar cost, membership of the Society can be obtained and you will then qualify for membership benefits and be able to purchase access to BMS Journals.

The Field Events Manager will remind you for payment of the balance owing at the appropriate time, usually no later than six weeks before the event. Please pay this promptly to maintain your place on the event. **Participants should consider travel insurance to cover late cancellation.** Final payment refunds may be possible, but only if a substitute person is found. Bookings will be acknowledged by email. If you do not have an email please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope if you require acknowledgement. Early booking is recommended to ensure a place on an event.

The booking form also allows you to indicate your preferences for accommodation in more detail. The available accommodation varies with the venue and, whilst we would like to try to meet everyone's individual needs, this may not always be possible. Additional charges will usually apply for single rooms or en-suite facilities depending on venue prices. All rooms will be booked on a 'First Come, First Served' basis so to ensure your choice of room type book early. If you are not able to attend due to there being no rooms left that are suitable for your stated requirements your cheque will be returned or a refund granted.

NOTES ON EVENTS

Workshops are usually held over a weekend, (Friday pm to Sunday pm) and are mainly indoors and combine lectures and practical work. On fungal identification workshops a microscope is essential. The BMS has a couple of microscope for use at workshops; however; please ask the Foray Manager if a microscope will be available before making a booking. Fungal identification workshops may use both fresh and dried fungal specimens as appropriate. In some cases, some outdoor foray activity may be part of the workshop. Numbers are usually limited, and the courses are generally booked up very quickly.

Residential Study Weeks; These events have a long tradition extending back to the 19th Century, historically called 'Forays'. They provide an opportunity for participants to study the fungi of a particular area. Each day there are field visits to record and collect material which are then studied after returning to the workroom. They provide an excellent opportunity for exchange of knowledge on current developments in taxonomy and conservation within an informal learning environment. There is a general exchange of information, especially during individual discussions around the 'Display Table' and sometimes in the bar, this gives an opportunity for the less experienced mycologist to learn from their more experienced colleagues. At some events there may be an invited guest mycologist, and occasionally there will also be a lecture or a presentation. Usually at autumn events either the guest mycologist or other experienced mycologist will discuss the outstanding finds of the day around the display table. Participants are encouraged to enter records of fungi seen during the event onto the on-line FRDBI database; these records will later be made available through the online NBN gateway. As part of this recording activity, our study weeks also provide an opportunity to add preserved specimens to the Kew Fungarium.

First time participants to a BMS event - The Society are always keen to encourage new participants with an interest in fungi to extend their expertise by participating in our study weeks and workshops. To get the most out of the 'Study weeks' some basic knowledge of fungi and the ability to work unaided with a microscope is a big advantage as formal tuition is not usually provided. However, there are usually plenty of knowledgeable people on hand to give advice and share ideas. Our site visits differ from 'Local Forays' in that our members tend to record and collect their specimens individually or in very small groups, usually to suite their particular interests, although lone collecting is discouraged on grounds of Health & Safety. One of the most rewarding aspects of participating in our 'Recording & Study Weeks' is having the opportunity to spend all your waking hours studying fungi with a very sociable and helpful group of like-minded people, and without feeling guilty or being distracted by your normal commitments to home and family. After a recent BMS 'Recording & Study Week', a member new to these events sent us the following feedback: ***"The highlight of the Foray for me was, without a doubt, the welcome and help***

that I received from other participants. I was rather worried that I might not fit into a week without any formal teaching but I actually had a fantastic time".

At some events BMS books may be available for use. Also if you have the skills to use a microscope but have not yet purchased one, there may be an opportunity to use a society owned microscope. If you would like to do so please contact the Field Events Manager. All participants are encouraged to bring any relevant literature and their own microscopes. However, whilst the organisers will endeavour to keep forayer's equipment as safe as is practicable, the society cannot be held accountable for any loss or damage; therefore it is advised that participants ensure that all equipment they bring is adequately insured.

Hope to see you on a BMS event soon: Peter R Smith, BMS Field Events Manager. Email: psmith840@gmail.com

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR BMS FIELD EVENTS

Hazard	How Likely	Most Likely Injury	Recommendations to minimise the risk
Tripping or slipping	High	Minor	Wear strong boots and walk carefully. Avoid holes, tree roots and fallen branches
Hit by a falling tree	V. Low	Major	Keep out of woods during high winds. Be aware of leaning or hung-up trees and branches
Walking into low branches	Medium	Minor	Be observant for low branches
Getting stuck in mud	Low	Poss. Fatal	Keep away from pond sides and bogs & carry a mobile
Drowning	Low	Fatal	Keep well away from all open water
Hit by a vehicle on the road	Medium	Poss. Fatal	Keep clear of all vehicles especially if reversing
Contracting Toxicariasis	Medium	Major	Avoid dog faeces. Keep hands away from mouth and wash hands before eating
Contracting Leptospirosis	Low	Major	Avoid contact with open water or where rats may have been Keep hands away from mouth and wash hands before eating
Contracting Tetanus	Low	Major	Immunisation - (see GP). Avoid injury. Keep any wounds covered, , Wash hands.
Contracting Lymes disease	Low	Major	Avoid areas where ticks may be present. Keep legs covered and check for ticks after trip. If you are bitten by a tick followed by flu-like symptoms contact your doctor
Hypodermic needle stick Injury	Low	Poss. Fatal	Be observant, Keep hands away from anywhere that you cannot see. If you suspect you have received a needle-stick injury; Make the wound bleed, clean it. Then get a message to the leader and go straight to A&E
Getting Lost	Low	None	Stay in groups, Carry a mobile phone, If you leave early please get a message to the leader so we know you are safe and don't need to search for you. Make a note of the Leaders mobile number
Attacked by a person or a dog	V. Low	Major	Stay in groups, Carry a mobile phone
Cut by a pen-knife	Medium	Minor	Always cut away from body parts. Carry plasters: Only carry a legal size pen-knife
Poisoned by fungi	Low	Poss. Fatal	BMS Field Events are for the recording and study of fungi only. Please do not collect any fungi for consumption on any BMS event.
Ingesting bacteria causing stomach pains or diarrhoea	Medium	Minor	Avoid handling any rotting fungi or any other putrid material. Keep hands away from the mouth and wash hands before eating or smoking
Tripping over in the workroom	Low	Minor	Keep walkways clear and be observant
Caustic or toxic reactions from chemical reagents	Low	Minor	Treat all chemicals with respect and handle carefully. Clean up any spills straight away and if skin gets contaminated wash of skin immediately

While it is recognised that some members prefer to search is specialist habitats on their own, they must accept the increased risks involved and should always carry a mobile phone with the Field events Manager and/or Local Organisers numbers, in case they get lost, encounter any difficulties or have an accident.

OBITUARY

Dr Stan Hughes

HUGHES, Stanley John CM, MSc, DSc, FRSC, FMLS

September 17, 1918 - November 7, 2019

Stan passed away peacefully in his 102nd year having recently celebrated 61 years of marriage to his beloved wife, Lyndell. He was surrounded at his passing by Lyndell and their children Glenys (Chuck) and David (Trinity). Stan was predeceased by son, Robert, in 2011. He took great joy in his grandchildren Zoe, Evelyn, Theo, and Rhian. We feel blessed that he was here to watch them grow.

Born in Llanelli in south Wales, Stan was one of four children, all of whom lived well into their nineties. A graduate of the University of Aberystwyth in Wales in 1941, Stan began his career at the Commonwealth Mycological Institute at Kew Gardens in England.

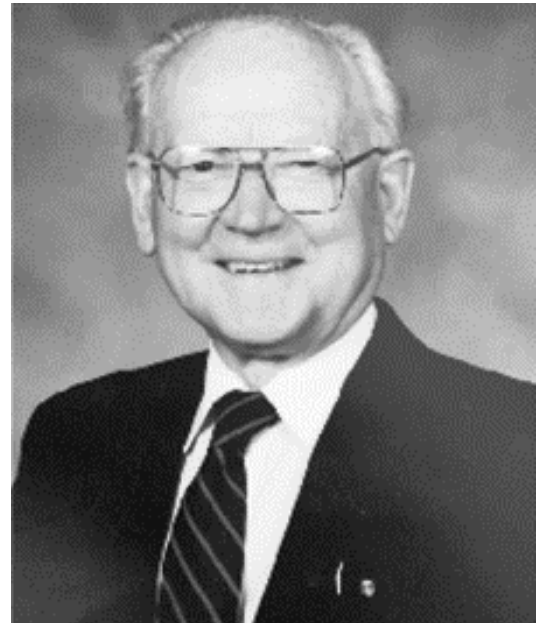
In 1952 he was invited to Ottawa to join Agriculture Canada as a research scientist. It was in Ottawa that he met Lyndell. During their courtship, Stan would drive his MG convertible to Hamilton, Ontario where Lyndell had taken up a teaching post. Eventually he would purchase cars more suited to Canadian weather, but his imported sports car with the red leather interior did the trick and Stanley Hughes and Lyndell Rutherford were married in 1958.

Stan worked with Agriculture Canada until his retirement in 1983. During his career, he achieved international recognition. In 1969 he was awarded the Jakob Eriksson Gold Medal from the Swedish Academy of Science. In 1975 Stan was President of the Mycological Society of America, and from 1971-83, Vice-President of the International Mycological Association. In 1981 he was awarded the George Lawson Medal from the Canadian Botanical Association. He was immensely proud of being named as a Foreign Member of the Linnean Society. Stan left behind a seminal body of work in mycology, and the respect of his peers culminated in his being appointed to the Order of Canada in 2010. Stan carried his passionate interest in his field into his nineties. It pleased him greatly that his collection of mycological books, some quite rare, was accepted gratefully by the Botanical Gardens in his native Wales.

Stan found meaning in the beauty and order of Nature. He was a passionate collector and classifier, and an environmentalist before it became a necessity. He enriched family conversations by recalling salient Welsh proverbs and the poetry of Wordsworth and Longfellow. The world fascinated Stan and we will miss his searching mind. His quick wit was second to none. He was a consummate gentleman, kind father, and loving husband. Nos da, Cariad.

This Obituary originally featured in the Ottawa Citizen Newspaper November 2019

<https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/stanley-hughes-1077808616>



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For Newsletter Items
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For UK Fungus Day
Email: ukfungusday@britmycolsoc.info

BMS Facebook group page
URL: www.facebook.com/groups/18843741618/

BMS Webpage
URL: www.britmycolsoc.org.uk

Items for the next newsletter

If you have any reports, future meetings, member news or any other items of interest please email to newsletter@britmycolsoc.info closing date **December 11th 2019**

