



Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Fern Glade (Mt Wellington) Foray

Monday 24th June 2013

Christine Fitzgerald

Participants: Genevieve Gates, Geoff Carle and Christine FitzGerald

Having woken to a beautiful, sunny morning – but bitterly cold – we were surprised to find that the temperature at Fern Glade was slightly warmer.

Although the number of fungi is noticeably down due to lack of rain this year, we did find quite a few species – we just had to work harder to find them. Being quite dry still, the track was very easy to walk and we enjoyed that aspect. Of course, being under the tree canopy made it quite dark and my photography skills are especially lacking in those conditions. For a good part of the morning we were followed by some Kookaburras, who obviously thought we were hilarious.

We covered wet sclerophyll, dry sclerophyll and damp, ferny gullies on our search. We stopped at a lovely green spot for lunch that we shared with a very cheeky Currawong. We noticed that many manferns had lost all their fronds during the recent dry weather. We crossed Radford's Track (I think) and meandered about coming back via Bracken Lane. It was a most enjoyable day.

Species List:

Among the agarics we found were *Armillaria novaezelandiae*, a tree parasite, *Gymnopus aff. dryophila*, *Cortinarius rotundisporus*, *Laccaria sp.*, *Lentinellus pulvinulus*, the 'little stinker' *Marasmiellus affixus* (the 'little stinker'), *Marasmius 'angina'*, *Marasmius aff. alveolaris* (horse hair fungus), *Mycena austrororida*, *Pholiota pallidocaulis*, *Pleurotopsis longinqua* (= *Panellus longinquus*), *Psathyrella echinata*, *Psathyrella aff. pennata*, *Psilocybe subaeruginosa*, *Russula persanguinea*, *Russula sp.*

One of the first fungi we found had a wonderful hairstyle – it was a yellow *Crepidotus sp.* (shown here) growing on the bark of a standing, dead tree. There are currently about 150 species of *Crepidotus* - it was first circumscribed almost 200 years ago, in 1821, by a gentleman named Elias Magnus Fries.

Puffballs: *Lycoperdon pyriforme* and *Scleroderma cepa*.

Jelly fungi: *Heterotextus peziziformis* (Golden Jelly-bells), *Tremella fuciformis*

Ascomycetes: *Urnula campylospora* (= *Plectania campylospora*), *Cudoniella*

pezizoidea *Bisporella citrina*, *Hypocrea sulphurea*, *Xylaria castorea*.

Leathery shelf-fungi: *Stereum illudens*, *Podoserpula pusio*.

Resupinate fungi: *Gloeoporus taxicola*.

Polypores: *Ryvardenia cretacea*, and *Trametes versicolor*, for which I have an interesting story:

Some time ago, an elderly man living in Japan was told by his doctors that he had advanced cancer in his stomach, and as it had spread, they were unable to do anything to help him. In order to alleviate his pain, he turned to a traditional medicine man who advised him to drink a herbal tea made of Trametes versicolor extract. This he did and after some months there was a noticeable improvement to his health. It was found that the cancer was regressing. This drew the attention of a neighbor, a pharmaceutical engineer, who started the ball rolling in isolating the component in the fungus that is active against cancer. Krestin, a cancer fighting drug is the result.

