



# Fungimap Newsletter Issue 10 July 1999



## Australian Fungi Mapping Scheme

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## **Regional Fungimap Structure**

As I noted in the last newsletter we have been working to create a national structure for Fungimap based on regions.

We now have Regional Co-ordinators in NSW, SA, WA and Tasmania. The Co-ordinators for these areas are:

- Bettye Rees - NSW
- Pam and David Catcheside - SA
- Katie Syme - WA
- David Ratkowsky - Tasmania

An introduction to our new regional coordinators and how to contact them can be found

later in this newsletter. We are hopeful that people around Australia will be able to have access to educational activities similar to those that have occurred in Victoria. Co-ordinators will have an important role in advertising the scheme.

We still need Regional Co-ordinators for Queensland (south and north), Victoria and the Northern Territory. However, if you know of someone who is able to take on a small area, say half a State (!), let us know because it's a big job covering a whole State.

The Regional Co-ordinators, Tom May, Pat Grey, myself and various Herbarium staff all met for a mini confest in April at Healesville. This was an important milestone for the project and allowed us to work out a number of details. One of the outcomes was agreement that each regional co-ordinator would share the task of writing up the new species which were added to the target species list in the last newsletter.

One of the major obstacles is a lack of photographs. If you have good, clear photographs of any of the target species and can donate these to us, please send them to Fungimap. We will use them (if suitable) on our homepage and in other material. A note clearly stating the photograph is donated to Fungimap is required.

## Records

Over 4,000 records have now been received. This means Fungimap has the largest data base for the target species in Australia.

We now also have over 360 recorders around Australia. That is a 26% increase since our last newsletter. This phenomenal growth has occurred since the new regional Co-ordinators have commenced working.

## Oops!

Apologies are due. In the last newsletter I inadvertently missed some important items in

proofreading. Tom's name was missing from one of the key articles and seven descriptions were left off. These can be found in this Newsletter.

I would also note that Tony Young in Queensland has an excellent Field Guide called *Common Australian Fungi - A Naturalists' Guide*. I use this guide myself and find it to be very useful. Tony's book is widely available and well known.

## Deadline for next newsletter

This publication is published three times a year. As readers will note more articles are being provided from a variety of writers. The deadline for the next newsletter is 10 November, 1999.

## Workshop - Southern NSW/NE Victoria

If you live in southern NSW or NE Victoria you may be interested in a half day workshop with Tom May in the Wodonga Albury area around 29 November. If you are, please submit an expression of interest and I will get back to you once details are confirmed.

John Julian

July, 1999

## What is Fungimap?

The Fungimap project is the first mapping scheme of fungi to occur in Australia and aims to gather information about the distribution and spread of 100 selected species of fungi.

In essence, we are increasing the knowledge of the distribution and ecology of Australian fungi. Literally we are mapping a new scientific frontier in Australia.

The Australian Fungi Mapping Scheme is a volunteer group working in close conjunction

with professional mycologists. It undertakes the Fungimap project as well as carrying out field research of specific areas each year. In the last few years field expeditions occurred to Mt Buffalo and Wilson's Promontory National Parks.

In the Fungimap project, 100 target species have now been selected and volunteers have been searching for 50 of these species for nearly 3 years, with 2,600 records received to date. Volunteers are able to identify 54 of the species from photographs in readily available texts, predominantly Bruce Fuhrer's *A Field Guide to Australian Fungi*.

*For further project information you can contact your Fungimap State Co-ordinator or John Julian, P.O. Box 178, Bright Vic 3741, phone (03) 5750 1796 or preferably, by email at: [fungimap@rbgmelb.org.au](mailto:fungimap@rbgmelb.org.au)*

## Records Of Target Species

For each record, please record the following information: Name of target species / State / General region / Locality / Grid Reference (latitude-longitude, AMG or MELWAY) / Date / Recorder's name / Habitat and substrate.

**Send all records to: Fungimap, National Herbarium of Victoria, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra, 3141.**

## What is Fungimap?

### ***The Role Of Fungi***

Fungi are known to have a vital role in the ecosystem as decomposers, as pathogens and as partners in mutualisms (symbioses) such as mycorrhizas. Without fungi, our life on earth would be vastly different, if it existed at all. Fungi are major recyclers of dead plant material. Fungi also considerably aid humanity in other ways, e.g. yeast are fungi and

many biologically active compounds, such as antibiotics, are produced from fungi.

Current research in other areas, especially conservation research, is hampered by the lack of basic knowledge of fungi. The distribution of even the most well known species of Australian fungi is poorly known. There are few published distribution maps. Fungi could be highly affected by pollution and a mapping study of fungi would add considerable knowledge on the spread and effects of pollution.

In general, the study of fungi is one of the last frontiers of natural science available for study that is accessible to the lay person. Taking into account the importance of fungi in our world, it is critical that this knowledge be gained as quickly as possible.

## ***Research Questions***

Research Questions Addressed by the Fungimap Mapping Scheme:

- What is the scale of distribution of fungi (are most fungi localised, or do they have wide distributions)?
- What are the major patterns of distribution? Examples might be species found in south-east and south-west Australia, or species restricted to one of these regions.
- What factors determine the limits (boundaries) of distribution? Are species limited by rainfall, temperature, soil type, host or combinations of these factors?
- Within their area of distribution, what is the habitat and substrate preference? Which species survive in remnant vegetation? Of particular interest is urban remnant vegetation.
- What is the effect of various forms of disturbance such as fire or logging on the occurrence of fungi?
- Are exotic species of fungi spreading into native forests?

- Is the effect of atmospheric pollution detectable? There is a need for baseline data against which to measure any decline in fungi.
- What is the time of appearance (phenology) of the fruiting bodies, and what factors might affect this?

As can be seen from the questions above, we do not currently have even the most basic data on fungi. These notes are taken directly from the submission for funding written by John Julian and Tom May.

## ***How did it all start?***

In 1994 several events happened simultaneously which got Fungimap onto the drawing board.

First was a talk by Tom May from the National Herbarium to the Botany Group of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV). Second was the creation of a Botany Research Group in the FNCV. Third was the President's Picnic at Wattle Park at which many fungi were noticed. At the same time, Tom May was also preparing an initial concept paper on Fungimap. The FNCV decided to survey Wattle Park for fungi and this was started by Noel Schleiger with John Julian. The project was soon joined by other people from FNCV and the Friends of Wattle Park. This project was completed in August 1996 after 500 collections had been made.

More than 12 visits were made to the park and it is recognised as the first major survey of fungi in an urban park in Australia.

Tom May was essential to the project in that he identified the species collected on the day following each visit. After this all the samples were dried, frozen, labelled properly and then given to the National Herbarium of Victoria.

It became apparent that, with guidance and support, volunteers were easily capable of resourcing a broader project. Tom and John then worked on the Fungimap project based on volunteer collectors. This included development of a consistent strategy to gain funding. In this process Tom was encouraged by several people around Australia who now make up the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Project.

In conjunction with this, several articles were written which now make up the Fungimap Kit. More applications for funding have now been made and we are waiting for the results.

## ***Volunteer wanted***

A volunteer is required to assist with Fungimap at the National Herbarium of Victoria

We need some one to help Pat Grey with updating the volunteer database, replies to new enquiries, mail sorting, assisting with the records database from time to time, etc.

Knowledge of Excel would be beneficial and to commence on a Friday in first two months.

Half day to 1 day a week.

## ***Split Gill as a human pathogen***

Tom May

(Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne)

As agents of human infection, fungi are not so important as bacteria, but some fungi do cause disease. Well known examples are tinea (ringworm, athlete's foot), which is caused by a variety of fungi which utilise the keratin in skin, hair and nails; and thrush, caused by the yeast fungus *Candida*. Another yeast, *Cryptococcus*, is responsible for Cryptococcosis, a serious human disease. *Cryptococcus neoformans* var. *gattii*, a causal agent of Cryptococcosis, is associated with *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *E. tereticornis* and other eucalypts in Australia and where these trees have been exported overseas (Ellis &

Pfeiffer 1996).

Most fungi which cause infections in humans belong to the Ascomycota or the Deuteromycota, and many are yeasts or other microfungi which do not form large fruit bodies. There are, however, a few species of larger Basidiomycota which can cause human disease. *Coprinus cinereus* and *C. micaceus* have been reported from infection following open heart surgery, and from a patient with chronic respiratory disease (de Hoog & Guarro 1995) and *Schizophyllum commune* is increasingly reported from a variety of cases. Clamp connections are unique to the Basidiomycota (although not always present) and are formed on the hyphae of fruit bodies and on hyphae in pure culture (such as those isolated from infected patients). When present, clamp connections are an important aid to the diagnosis of basidiomycete fungi.

*Schizophyllum commune*, the Split Gill, is a very common and widespread fungus which produces small fan-shaped fruit bodies with a hairy upper surface and gill-like folds on the underside which have a characteristic 'split' edge. It is a plant saprotroph, breaking down dead wood of a large variety of plant hosts. In its saprotrophic mode of nutrition, it grows on dead woody substrates, and also on dead wood of living trees, colonising the substrate through wounds such as fire scars or wounds to the bark. It can also cause a pathogenic infection of plants under stress, where it produces a white rot of the living sapwood (Sinclair *et al.* 1987).

In Australia *S. commune* is known from all states in a variety of forest types - but is apparently absent from the arid interior. Fungimap records and specimens in the National Herbarium of Victoria show a wide host range, including *Acacia*, *Banksia*, *Eucalyptus*, *Grevillea*, *Hakea*, *Helichrysum*, *Melaleuca*, *Nothofagus*, *Pomaderris* and *Terminalia*, and cultivated *Araucaria*, *Ficus*, *Pinus* and *Prunus*. The fungus has also been collected from strawboard used in a house ceiling.

I recently confirmed the identification as *Schizophyllum commune* of a fungal culture isolated from a patient with sinusitis (Anon, 1999). Since *S. commune* is one of the Fungimap target species, it seems prudent to draw attention to the potential human pathogenicity of the fungus. Infections by *Schizophyllum commune* documented in the medical literature include lung infection (some causing 'fungus ball', others an allergic reaction), nail infection, meningitis, ulcers of the palate, brain abscess, and most frequently, sinusitis (Kern & Uecker 1986; de Hoog & Guarro 1995; Sigler *et al.* 1995; Rihs *et al.* 1996). The fungus has been identified from human infections by the formation of the characteristic fruit bodies in cultures derived from infected tissue, and recently by comparison of DNA sequences of fungal isolates from patients against sequences of known cultures (Sigler *et al.* 1995).

Like many fungal infections of humans, those caused by *S. commune* often occur in patients whose immune system has been compromised, such as through HIV infection or corticosteroid treatment, but this is by no means always the case (Rihs *et al.* 1996). The means by which *S. commune* infects is unknown, but is presumed to be inhalation of spores (Kern & Uecker 1986).

In consequence of the potential to cause human disease, care should be exercised in handling *S. commune*, and it is recommended that inhalation of spores be avoided (such as could occur when sniffing to detect smell of the fruit body).

**Acknowledgements** Thanks to Alan Woodgyer (Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, University of Melbourne) and Rod Jones (School of Botany, University of Melbourne) for useful discussions and help with references.

## References

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Kern, M.A. & Uecker, F.A. (1986), Maxillary sinus infection caused by the homobasidiomycetous fungus *Schizophyllum commune*, *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* 23: 1001-1005.

Rihs, J.D., Padhye, A.A. & Good, C.B. (1996), Brain abscess caused by *Schizophyllum commune*: an emerging basidiomycete pathogen, *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* 34: 1628-1632.

Sigler, L., de la Maza, L.M., Tan, G., Egger, K.N. & Sherburne, R.K. (1995), Diagnostic difficulties caused by a nonclamped *Schizophyllum commune* isolate in a case of fungus ball of the lung, *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* 33: 1979-1983.

Sinclair, W.A., Lyon, H.H. & Johnson, W.T. (1987), *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs*, Cornell University Press: Ithaca.

## Addendum To Updates To Fungimap Target List: 50 New Target Species

Tom May

Due to a glitch with the publishing program, the author of this article in the last *Fungimap Newsletter* was accidentally omitted, along with notes on the following seven additions to the target species, in *Fungimap Newsletter* 9).

***Schizostoma laceratum***. Stalked puffball with globose peridium (up to 25 mm diam.), dehiscing not by stoma (mouth) but by irregular fissuring from apex downwards, uncovering spore mass; stem to 3mm wide and 3 cm long (possibly longer). In deserts.

RARE. *Tulostoma* has definite stoma. *Battarraea* has outer peridium forming cap to spore mass.

***Stereum hirsutum*** group (including *S. complicatum*). Thelephore with massed brackets (cap to 3.5 cm deep), hairy above, ochre or brown, sometimes zoned; margin sometimes yellow, often frilly; underside ochre to buff. On wood. ***Stereum ostrea***. Thelephore with large brackets (cap to 14 cm deep), often massed on fallen logs, with zoned cap and smooth ochre yellow underside. Compare to *S. hirsutum* group.

***Tubaria rufofulva***. Agaric with maroon (brownish red) fruit body; cap with translucent striae when wet, hygrophanous, but soon drying to paler red brown; stem with membranous ring; on wood. Could be confused with red *Dermocybe*, but these are on the ground and do not have membranous ring.

***Underwoodia beatonii***. Club fungus with cylindrical fruit body up to 70 mm high, tapered to pointed apex; greyish brown above, cream below; internally hollow. Often under *Melaleuca*. RARE.

***Uromyces politus***. This rust has an aecial (cluster cup) stage which forms masses of orange cylinders (to 1.5 mm high) with a white, toothed margin. On *Muehlenbeckia*. RARE.

***Vibrissea dura***. Club fungus to 30 mm high, with small (to 7 mm diam.) convex, brown or yellowish heads on pale stalks; slimy when fresh. On wood, in wet areas. RARE. Compare *Chlorovibrissea*, which all have green hues.

## Spore Print

by Tom May

## ***Newsletter available on Fungimap Web Site***

Due to the efforts of Michael McBain, all Fungimap Newsletters are available on the Fungimap web site. If you are happy to check out new Newsletter issues on the internet, rather than receive a hard copy, please email [fungimap@rbgmelb.org.au](mailto:fungimap@rbgmelb.org.au) and your

name can be taken off the mailing list, but you will be contacted by email when each newsletter becomes available on the web site. There will also be a note in the Sydney Fungal Studies Group newsletter when each Fungimap Newsletter is available on the web site. Recorders who opt to look up the web site will help to save paper and also help to save on costs of Newsletter production and postage.

## ***Analysis***

Sufficient records have been received for some target species to allow detailed analysis to attempt to explain the observed distribution patterns. This will involve an assessment of factors such as substrate and host preference, associations with particular vegetation types, and particularly climate (through variables such as average rainfall and temperature). We will be involving tertiary students in this analysis, which will use software such as BIOCLIM. Later in 1999 Jenny Tonkin will be commencing an Honours project at the University of Melbourne, studying factors controlling distribution of some of the Fungimap target species.

## ***Unusual Records***

Fungimap is at present restricted to recording a set of 100 target species. The choice to record only the target species is a pragmatic one, based on the ease of identification and the practicality of handling the records received. However, I'm sure that from time to time many of you see interesting or unusual fungi which are not target species. We would be happy to hear of your sightings of any interesting fungi, and publish them in Fungimap Newsletter, along with any notes or illustrations that you might submit - in a new column **for** Unusual Records. Admittedly, it can be difficult to know sometimes whether a record of a particular species is unusual or not! This is because so little

distribution data has been compiled (even for state by state distribution) and there are so few maps of any species. Quite a few common species are not included in any field guides. The *Catalogue and Bibliography of Australian Macrofungi* (Part 1 published as volume 2A of the *Fungi of Australia* series, Part 2 in preparation) now allows access to a list of all published records of each species; although you would need to check through all the publications listed under each species in order to build up a picture of the distribution. If you don't have access to specialist literature, send in your record anyway, and it will be a good excuse to compile the known distribution.

## ***Recent articles on Australian Fungi***

Fungimappers might find these two articles of interest - both have excellent colour illustrations.

Cooper, J. (1999), Fungi. Gems of the forest. *Australian Geographic* 53: 56-61.

Sarre, A. (1999), Fundamental fungi, *Ecos* Jan-March 1999.

## ***Cat Lovers Beware***

The unappealing slimy spore mass of *Aseroe rubra* attracts flies, but it seems that it may have a fatal attraction to cats. Whilst searching literature for records of Australian fungi for volume 2B of the *Catalogue of Australian Macrofungi*, I came across a note by Colenso (1884) that, according to settlers in the Woodville district of New Zealand, "cats eat it, being fond of it and die soon after".

**Reference:** Colenso, W. (1884), A further contribution towards making known the botany of New Zealand, *Trans & Proc New Zealand Inst.* 16: 325-363.

**Pina Milne** (Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne)

# The history of *Amanita phalloides* in Australia

Heino Lepp

*Amanita phalloides*, the Deathcap, is an introduced species from the northern hemisphere, where it forms mycorrhizae with a variety of deciduous tree species.

CJ Shepherd (cited in Southcott) when talking about *A. phalloides* in Canberra, noted that: "I first observed and collected this in 1961, and I expect that it probably occurred before this". He further hypothesised that it had been introduced as a mycorrhizal partner with imported, rooted American Oak trees. By 1967 the two sites at which he had observed *A. phalloides* in Canberra had either been flooded by the creation of Lake Burley Griffin or had disappeared under the development of a new suburb so that Shepherd, in the same citation, had also surmised that "we have lost it completely". The next collection of the species appears to have been made in the Melbourne suburb of Kew in May 1974, under an oak tree. Reid noted a contemporary collection made at the same Kew site and in his discussion of *A. phalloides* in Australia referred to this as "the only known collection".

Since then *A. phalloides* has become more widespread in Canberra (despite Shepherd's contrary hope), where I have seen it in many suburbs, associated with mature oak trees, and in very large numbers in some years. There have also been some years (with very dry and long summers) when I have seen very few or even no specimens. It has also been recorded from various suburbs in Melbourne with Cole noting that it "is now appearing regularly in association with *Quercus spp.* (oaks) and, less frequently, with liquidambar, birch and beech". She also reported it for the Victorian country centres of Riddells Creek (near Mount Macedon), Morwell and Walhalla. Tom May has told me that the National Herbarium of Victoria holds *A. phalloides* specimens from the Melbourne

suburbs of Burwood, Camberwell, Deepdene, Sandringham and South Yarra. All of these collections were gathered near oak trees

From Richard Windsor, in Canberra, I have anecdotal evidence of *A. phalloides* forming mycorrhizae with *Eucalyptus* species in Canberra, but I have not yet been able to confirm this. Thus far the only documented cases of any associations with *Eucalyptus* have come from Algeria and Tanzania (noted by Malencon & Bertault and Pegler, respectively). The exotic *Amanita muscaria* (another Fungimap target taxon) is known to have formed mycorrhizae with native *Nothofagus* species in Australia and New Zealand. So the association of *A. phalloides* with *Eucalyptus* need not be surprising. It will be interesting to see how widespread *A. phalloides* is and what plant species it is associating with - and to this end Fungimap records will be invaluable.

### ***What about any look-alike species?***

In 1997 Wood described a new native species, which he named *Amanita austrophalloides* and noted that it was "clearly distinct from, though related to, *Amanita phalloides*" - with the differences in microscopic features being emphasized. Thus far this new species is recorded from only one site in Sydney, growing amongst *Casuarina* and with unknown toxicity. As the full diversity of native Australian *Amanita* species is by no means known, there is also the question of whether other species similar to *A. phalloides* will be found.

In this regard it is interesting to note that Graham Bell (from the State Herbarium in Adelaide) has informed me that the Adelaide herbarium holds six supposed collections of *Amanita phalloides*, collected between 1913 and 1928 from the Sydney region and Brown's River in Tasmania. Unfortunately there are no vegetation details with those collections. All of these collections were apparently named by JB Cleland, but with reservations as he annotated them "near phalloides", "?phalloides", etc. In Canberra I have seen examples of *A. phalloides* which, from a quick glance, could be mistaken for

species of the genus *Volvariella*. But remember that a *Volvariella* does not have a ring. A couple of months ago I was shown a collection of dried specimens (found in a Canberra suburb) and photographs of the mushrooms when fresh. In the photographs the mushrooms certainly bore an uncanny resemblance to *A. phalloides*, except for the presence of a bulbous and slightly scaly base rather than a volva. In the dried state the gills had browned considerably, in the way I've seen some *Macrolepiota* species go. Moreover, the dextrinoid spores were an immediate giveaway that an *Amanita* was not involved and for the moment I think the collection represents a species of *Leucoagaricus*.

## References

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Pegler, DN (1977) *A Preliminary Agaric Flora of East Africa*. HMSO, London.

Reid, DA (1980) "A Monograph of the Australian Species of *Amanita* Pers. ex Hook. (Fungi)" *Australian Journal of Botany. Supplementary Series No. 8*

Southcott, RV (1974) "Notes on some poisonings and other clinical effects following ingestion of Australian fungi" *South Australian Clinics* 6: 441-478

Wood, AE (1997) "Studies in the Genus *Amanita* (Agaricales) in Australia" *Australian Systematic Botany* 10: 723-854

## Regional Co-ordinators

### ***David Ratkowsky Tasmania***

David worked for 17 years as a biometrician with CSIRO, then at the University of

California and Washington State University. After this he became the senior biometrician with the Tasmanian Department of Primary industry until retirement in 1993.

Currently David is an Honorary Research Associate in the School of Agricultural Science and Plant Science at the University of Tasmania, Hobart.

He has written 4 books (2 as co-author) and over 80 scientific papers.

David first became interested in fungi in 1994 when they were part of a survey of the vegetation of Mt. Wellington. His major interest now is with the genus *Cortinarius* and has a wider interest in macro fungi with the continuing work on Mt Wellington.

David can be contacted by writing to 20 York Street, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005. His email address is: [D.Ratkowsky@utas.edu.au](mailto:D.Ratkowsky@utas.edu.au)

## ***Pam Catchside South Australia***

Pam has an Honours degree in Botany from Imperial College in London. This fired an early interest in the Fungi.

Pam arrived in Australia in 1966 and, following a period as an educator in an antidrug programme, taught Biology to Matriculation students for 25 years.

She attended the inaugural conference of the Australasian Mycological Society and is now involved full time in a project that aims to document the current macrofungal flora of South Australia. Pam, and her husband, David, hold a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Fund to begin this project.

Pam is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Flinders University of South Australia and President of the Field Naturalists Society of South Australia.

Pam can be contacted by email at [dpcatchi@arcom.com.au](mailto:dpcatchi@arcom.com.au) or c/ 72 Eve Rd, Belview Heights, 5050

## ***Katrina Syme Western Australia***

Katie's interest in fungi was stimulated by an autumn holiday in Tasmania. Back home in W.A., she started painting pictures of the ones she found. In 1988 she was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and travelled to the U.K., where she studied botanical & fungi illustration and attended forays given by the British Mycological Society. (She met Bettye Rees on the Welsh foray!)

This year she will conduct a workshop in fungi illustration in Norway. where she is attending the 9th International Fungi & Fibre Symposium. Experiments with fungal dyes on textiles are another of her interests.

She co-authored and illustrated 'Fungi of Southern Australia' with Dr Neale Bougher. which was published by UWA Press in 1998.

Not only does Katie illustrate fungi; she is also involved in fungal surveys and ecological studies in the south west of W.A. In particular, the underground 'truffle - like' fungi which form more than 90% of the diet of the Gilbert's Potoroo, Australia's most endangered mammal. Katie will talk on this and other mycological topics and give a painting workshop in Canada and north East U.S.A. later this year.

Katie feels that Fungimap can contribute an enormous amount of knowledge to a little known but vitally important field of study, while simultaneously giving a great deal of enjoyment to participants in the scheme.

She can be contacted by Email at [environ@denmarkwa.net.au](mailto:environ@denmarkwa.net.au) or c/- Denmark Environment Centre, PO Box 142, Denmark 6333

## ***Bettye Rees NEW SOUTH WALES***

Bettye's undergraduate education was in microbiology and Biochemistry at the University of Queensland and she later worked in clinical microbiology identifying human fungal and

bacterial pathogens. Her work in clinical mycology included a period at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Bettye's interests expanded to the macrofungi, working with Alec Wood, at the University of New South Wales. She completed a MSc then a PhD on the macrofungal genus *Gymnopilus* in Australia.

Bettye's current projects include writing a treatment of *Gymnopilus*, *Phaeocollybia* and *Pyrrhoglossum*; members of the Cortinariaceae, for the 'Fungi of Australia' and workshops for interested amateur mycologists aimed at generating greater understanding of fungi.

Bettye is primarily a systematist who has described around ten new Australian species in the Cortinariaceae.

She currently holds the position of Honorary Research Associate in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of New South Wales where she contributes to the teaching of courses in mycology.

Bettye can be contacted by email on [B.Rees@unsw.edu.au](mailto:B.Rees@unsw.edu.au) or care of 10 Lloyd Avenue, Hunters Hill, NSW 2110.

## **Regional Workshop Southern NSW/NE Victoria**

If you live in southern NSW, NE Victoria or Goulburn Valley you may be interested in a half day workshop with Tom May in the Wodonga/Albury or Bright area around 29 November (specific venue to be clarified).

If you are, please submit a expression of interest and I will get back to you once details are confirmed.

John Julian

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## Take Care With Toxic Fungi

Looking at fungi and photographing them is a fun pastime, but if you are going to become more closely acquainted with the subjects of your study (for example eating them) caution is necessary.

Some of the target species are toxic if eaten (such as *Amanita phalloides*, *Amanita muscaria*, *Agaricus xanthodermus*), also note that powdery spores from puffballs can cause asthma type symptoms on inhalation, and the split gill (*Schizophyllum commune*) **has been reported as a human pathogen** (see article in this Newsletter).

**All fungi records should be sent to:**

**Fungimap PROJECT,**

**(Pat Grey)**

**National Herbarium of Victoria,**

**Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, 3141.**

**Other requests should be sent to: Fungimap National Herbarium of Victoria,  
Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, 3141. Preferred contact mode is by the cheaper  
and environmentally sounder method of e-mail at: [fungimap@rbgmelb.org.au](mailto:fungimap@rbgmelb.org.au)**

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## Records Of Target Species

Fungimap is a scheme to record the distribution of 100 target species. For each record, please record the following information:

Name of target species / State / General region / Locality / Grid Reference

(latitudelongitude, AMG or MELWAY) / Date / Recorder's name / Habitat and substrate.

Send to: Fungimap, National Herbarium of Victoria. Birdwood Ave, South Yarra 3141.

E-mail: [fungimap@rbgmelb.org.au](mailto:fungimap@rbgmelb.org.au)

### Australian Fungi Mapping Scheme

#### Fungimap Project

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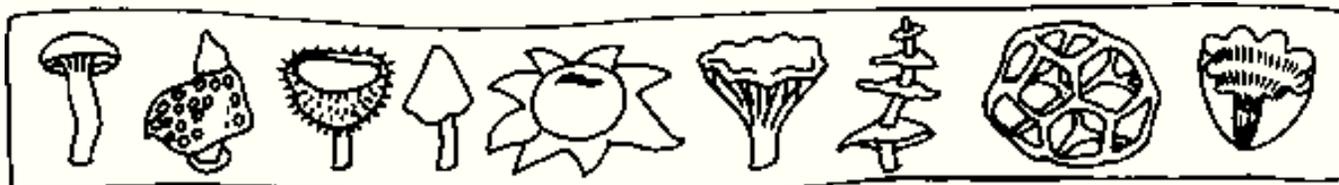
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