



Fungimap Newsletter Issue 8 October 1998

Australian Fungi Mapping Scheme

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Funding

Thank you to those who have made suggestions about our funding. The Commonwealth Government is refusing to fund mapping programs through the National Heritage Trust. Even though Australia's fauna and flora have been significantly mapped, fungi has yet to be funded for a mapping program such as Fungimap.

Where are we at with our funding? Currently we are submitting for the Readers Digest Environment Award and the National Bank Community Awards. Last year we were finalists for the Readers Digest Environment Award. Later this year we will commence searching for new trusts to request funds from. We still have funds left from the Myer

Foundation grant but are using these cautiously to ensure that we keep things going.

We now have a few things on our side - we have a consistent proven record and I think we also now have the biggest data base for the target species in Australia. All of this has occurred from your volunteer efforts.

Drought - it's now broken?

Dare I say it? After the floods up here in the North East meant that I couldn't get home last week, I think the drought is broken.

Records

Yes we now have more than 2000 records. Who did send in that 2000th record? It's in this newsletter.

Mt Buffalo Research

With the creation of a Field Naturalists Research Group at Mt Buffalo I have decided to undertake a thorough mapping of the target species of Mt Buffalo. This will involve three visits each year where I will lead a educational and fungi foray survey.

My trips will be on 18 October 1998, 18 March and 16 May 1999. If you wish to visit the fabulous North East in these wonderful times. come on a walk with us and help search

I know that there are many Fungimappers out there with a greater knowledge of fungi than myself. How about doing the same thing in your area?

Welcome to New Fungi-Hunters

Once again we have people receiving this newsletter for the first time. Welcome.

We now have more than 270 people receiving this newsletter, an increase of 70 since the

last!

Colour brochures of the original 8 target species are available from myself. The remaining 42 species can all be found in Bruce Fuhrer's book, *A Field Guide to Australian Fungi*. (For the complete list of species see below) This is available in many bookshops, through the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria or through Fungimap. The cost of Bruce's book is \$20.00. Each copy you buy from Fungimap assists us to keep going.

Media Work

Tom May has recently been in *The Age* about fungi and Fungimap and I had the Wandiligong Primary school children, very keen fungi hunters, on *Totally Wild*. The kids were great and learnt a lot about TV! Their knowledge of fungi is growing with nearly all of them now being able to rattle off scientific names and can all tell *Mycenas*, *Coprinus* and so on.

Home Page

Our Internet home page is being increasingly used. Michael McBain has now put photographs of all 50 species onto the site and is working at putting written descriptions for each species. Nine now have written descriptions.

How can you access the site without your own computer or modem? Many adult education centres, neighbourhood houses and computer shops allow people to access the Internet and will show you how to gain access to our homepage for a small fee. If they have a colour printer, you may be able to run off colour copies of the photographs.

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What is Fungimap?

The Fungimap project is the first mapping scheme of fungi to occur in the southern hemisphere and aims to gather information about the distribution and spread of 100 selected species of fungi. It is the first mapping scheme of fungi to be undertaken in the Southern Hemisphere. 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.

Currently, approximately 5000 Australian fungi are known. This represents only 5% of the expected population of Australian species. At current rates of research, it is estimated that it would take 700 years before all Australian fungi are catalogued.

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 year field expeditions occurred at Mt Buffalo and Wilson's Promontory National Parks.

In the Fungimap project, 50 target species have now been selected and volunteers have been searching for these species for 18 months, sending in 1500 records to date.

Volunteers are able to identify the species from photographs in readily available texts, predominantly Bruce Fuhrer's *A Field Companion to Australian Fungi*.

For further information you can contact John Julian, P.O. Box 178, Bright Vic 3741, phone (03) 5750 1796 or preferably, by email at wandivalley@netc.net.au

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Fungimap Target Species

Records, recent or old, of all 50 target species from all parts of Australia are requested.

Some of the additional species are not so distinctive as the original eight species and some recorders may wish to limit themselves to the more obvious species. Remember to

indicate if you are in any doubt about the identification of a record, and in such cases it is best to send a photo.

Numbers in brackets are page numbers in Bruce Fuhrer's *Field Companion to Australian Fungi* (published by FNCV).

ORIGINAL EIGHT (illustrated in Fungimap colour brochure - in addition, all species except *Amanita muscaria* and

Battarraea stevenii are illustrated in *Field Comp.*.

Amanita muscaria

Amanita xanthocephala (21)

Aseroe rubra (102)

Battarraea stevenii

Dermocybe austroveneta (31)

Mycena interrupta (59)

Omphalina chromacea (62)

Omphalotus nidiformis (70)

ADDITIONS MARCH 1997 For this first updated list, all species are illustrated in Bruce Fuhrer's *Field Companion*.

Agaricus xanthodermus (15)

Amauroderma rude (113)

Anthurus archeri (102)

Armillaria luteobubalina (22)

Ascocoryne sarcoides (144)

Banksiamyces macrocarpa (146)

Boletellus obscurecoccineus (80)

Calostoma fuscum (94)

Cordyceps gunnii (154)

Cordyceps hawkesii (155)

Cortinarius austroalbidus (in Field Comp. as *C. albidus*) (29)

Cortinarius radicans (34)

Cortinarius rotundisporus (36)

Cyttaria gunnii (147)

Fistulina hepatica (116)

Gymnopilus pampeanus (45)

Hericium clathroides (108)

Hygrophorus lewellinae (48)

Ileodictyon gracile/cibarium (in Field Comp. as *Clathrus cibarius*) (101/104)

Leotia lubrica (150)

Lepista nuda (52)

Macrotyphula juncea (in Field Comp. as *Clavaria delphus*) (85)

Marasmius oreades (55)

Microporus xanthopus (118)

Morchella elata/conica (in Field Comp. as *Morchella* sp.) (151)

Mucronella pendula (in Field Comp. as *Myxomycidium pendulum*) (90)

Mycena austrororida (57)

Mycoacia subceracea (109)

Neolentinus dactyloides (in Field Comp. as *Lentinus terrestris*) (52)

Oudemansiella radicata (67)

Panus fasciatus (in Field Comp. as *Lentinus fasciatus*) (51)

Piptoporus australiensis (119)

Piptoporus maculatissimus (121)

Podaxis pistillaris (100)

Podoserpula pusio (132)

Poronia ericii (in Field Comp. as *P. punctata*) (158)

Pseudohydnum gelatinosum (142)

Schizophyllum commune (76)

Tremella fuciformis (138)

Tremella mesenterica (140)

Vibrissea bicolor (154)

Volvariella speciosa (77)

All fungi records to be sent to:

Fungimap

**National Herbarium of Victoria, Birdwood Avenue,
South Yarra, 3141.**

All administrative and general enquiries to:

John Julian,

PO Box 178,

Bright, Victoria 3741.

Telephone (03) 5750 1796.

Lats. and Longs.

Recorders are making it much easier for me to locate their records when lat/longs are provided. Lat/longs are also used for creating the maps on the computer. Those with GPS equipment have a distinct advantage. It is also a simple matter for me to convert Melways references and Australian Map Grids into Lat/Long. With the AMG it is important

to include the SMALL printed numbers, not recorded on all of the lines e.g. 345, the first number running along the top of the map, and 5819, along the side. Also the zone number is useful; west of the line running north/south through Apollo Bay area (Vic) is 54, east of that point 55. For those places without a grid reference, it is not difficult for me to find the Lat/Long if there is a detailed description e.g. Robertson, SW of Wollongong (coast, south of Sydney), NSW. An aid to entering the actual data is if all records from one spot are listed together - less typing that way - and more cut and paste!

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From Pat Grey's Desk

Acknowledgements and significant records

2,000th record reached since the last newsletter

Congratulations to all those who have sent in records

And the 2000th record was sent in by Ian McCann and Thelma Argall from the Grampians. their 14th batch. Thank you Ian and Thelma --keep up the good work.

Acknowledgements

Thanks also go to a lot of other contributors: Helen Aston, Robert Bender, Pamela Catcheside (2 batches), Helen Cohn, Eileen Collins, Valerie Cudmore, Thelma Daniell, Owen Dawson, Robin Dzedins, Andrea Dennett, John Eichler (4 batches), Janet Fenton, Ron Fletcher, FNCV (Excursion to Mt Tool-be-wong, Rod Barker's place), Field Naturalists Society of SA (via Pam Catcheside), Sharon Ford (3 batches), Ade Foster (2 batches, 1 sent to him by Judy Rowe), Pat Grey (2 batches), Alison Harcourt, Virgil Hubregtse (3 batches), Patricia Jordan, Ann Kettle, William & Helen Kosky, Joan F Kottek (2 batches),

Heino Lepp, Simon Lewis (3 batches), Jean Lightfoot, Ellen Lyndon, Dorothy Mahler (3 batches), Keith Marshall, Tom May, Marie McIntyre, Sapphire McMullan (2 batches), Pina Milne, Dave Munro (2 batches), Julie Parker, Lois Prictor, David Ratkowsky (4 batches including those sent to him by Genevieve Gates and A.Mills, and various members of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club), Rosemary Robb, Joan & Bob Rowlands, Erich & Elsbeth Sacco, Margery Smith (2 batches), Julie Strudwick, Neville Walsh, Gary Watson (2 batches), Hilary Weatherhead (3 batches) Di Williams (4 batches), Tony Young.

It is largely due to these recorders that we continue to make such good progress with Fungimap. There are 268 recorders on our mailing list and if everyone sent in only 2 records, we would go ahead with leaps and bounds. One record is a help, even if you think that the species must have been recorded a number of times, even if it is extremely common, every record adds a bit of knowledge to the distribution of our 'target' species. In the UK (covering all species) they have hundreds of thousands of records from all over the kingdom.

Most of our records, as might be expected, come from Victoria but we hope that those 'fungists' in other states will make a big effort - we have quite a lot of records from Tasmania, and some from the highlands of NSW and South Australia, the rest from locations scattered over the continent.

Highlights

300th *Amanita muscaria*, Hamilton, Vic, Dave Munro.

record of:

150th *Amanita xanthocephala*, Healesville, Vic, *Omphalotus nidiformis*,

record of: Melbourne, Vic, John Eichler

- 100th record of:** *Dermocybe austroveneta*, Tumut, NSW, Margery Smith; *Agaricus xanthodermus*, Bundanoon, NSW, Patricia Jordon, (this sp. is at last looking like the more common species it is), *Gymnopilus pampeanus*, Warragul, Vic, Pat Grey, *Oudemansiella radicata* (at the moment we are not changing it to *Xerula*), Otways, Vic, Sapphire McMullen; *Schizophyllum commune* (1940), Cook District, Qld, Heino Lepp
- 50th record of:** *Armillaria luteobubalina*, Dandenongs, Vic, Gary Watson; *Cordyceps gunnii*, Tarleton, Tas, Di Williams; *Tremella fuciformis*, McLaren Vale, SA, Pam Catcheside
- 25th record of:** *Amauroderma rude*, Ararat, Vic, Ann Kettle; *Morchella elata/conica*, Warrnambool, Vic, Helen Langley; *Volvariella speciosa*, Melbourne, Vic, Virgil Hubregtse.
- 15th record of:** *Cyttaria gunnii*, Baw Baw, Vic, Sharon Ford.
- 10th record of:** *Anthurus archeri*, Westernport, Vic, Owen Davison, *Ascocoryne sarcoides*, Healesville, Vic, Cecily Falkingham; *Podaxis pistillaris*, Great Victoria Desert, SA/WA
- 5th record of:** *Cortinarius autroalbidus*, Dandenongs, Vic, Hilary Weatherhead; *Macrotyphula juncea*, Otways, Vic, Ian McCann/Thelma Argall; *Mucronella pendula*, Hobart, Tas, David Ratkowsky.

How do we tell ..? Where can I find photographs?

A number of possible fungi were mentioned in the last newsletter for inclusion into the list. Some keen fungi-hunters have contacted me to ask where they can find photographs of these. At the moment, we do not have photographs readily available. We are considering putting photographs on our web page for those of you who have access but this will take a bit of time to organise.

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Mycoacia subceracea - an 'image' problem

The 'premiership table' (Fungimap Newsletter 7 shows that there is only ONE record for *Mycoacia subceracea*, and even now (August 1998) only five - 2 from Julie Strudwick, 1 from Pam Catcheside, and 2 found by Pat and Ed Grey. The Greys' sighting is a sure indication that *Mycoacia subceracea* must be more common than our records would indicate. Perhaps it suffers from an 'image' problem.

Bruce Fuhrer's *Field Companion* (p 109) has the only illustration of this Australian species, and may give a slightly distorted view- it is a close- up image. Roger Phillips (*Mushrooms Great Britain & Europe*, p 240) provides an illustration of a somewhat similar species, *Mycoacia uda*. It shows the species in 'normal' view, and it looks like a yellow stain on a small piece of wood, as does *Mycoacia subceracea*, but under the hand lens appears as a series of yellow spines.

Mycoacia subceracea is also cryptic, it is found on the underside of smallish damp branches, which have fallen to the ground. It is bright yellow (darker at maturity), lies flat on the substrate (see in Phillips illustration, p 241) with the spore producing layer outwards, but which, when magnified, can be seen to be covered in crowded, short, blunt protrusions (see Fuhrer, p 109).

Fungimap records of this *Mycoacia subceracea* come from Adelaide (SA), and in Victoria from Benalla, the Thompson River (FNCV Fungi foray) and Currawong Bush Park (outer Metropolitan park), so the species obviously occurs in a variety of habitats. Perhaps it is found near you. Please look under all branches and twigs for this species, so that we can redress the balance in the database.

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Mycena austrororida

Mycena austrororida, although described as a **common** species in a number of books on fungi, appears only seven times in the Fungimap database.

In the *Field Companion* (Bruce Fuhrer) the cap is shown as glutinous and whitish.

However, the cap is described as dry by Grgurinovic and Holland (*The Victorian Naturalist* 99(3) 1982, 103; Grgurinovic, 1995, *Australian Systematic Botany*, 8, 537-547, *Mycena* in Australia: Section *Roridae*) and **common** in the 1982 literature, although the map in the 1995 article shows a very sparse distribution - some in Victoria, a couple in Tasmania, one in WA, one in Qld. In order to create a valid picture of the distribution of this species we need more records or indications of non sightings.

The important characteristics of the species: that the hazel pigment is found in dots at the centre of the cap, which is also striate, and may or may not be translucent; that the stem is short - less than 3 cm (quite unusual in a *Mycena*) and very slimy, also that it tapers towards the cap.

Other characteristics include a white stipe, gills white, broadly adnate (straight on to the stem) to subdecurrent (almost running down the stem); fruiting bodies up to 3 cm in height.

Young's description of the species (called *Mycena rorida* in *Common Fungi of Australia*, p 94) is similar to Grgurinovic and Holland, also mentioning that the stem is coated with a thick layer of gluten **but** which persists only at the base, as the plant matures.

According to Grgurinovic (1995), the collections were found from April-June and August on rainforest trees, decayed logs, and fallen eucalypts. In Victoria *Mycena austrororida* has been found in the Dandenongs, Narbethong, and the Otways; in WA - Augusta; in Qld - Lamington; in Tas - Hobart and Cradle Mountain.

Mycena austrororida differs from the very similar new species *M. yirukensis*, in that the latter is found on litter rather than wood.

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Additions To Target Species

The list is currently under consideration, with the current 50 species soon to be extended to 150, including 50 species which appear (on current knowledge) to be rare or restricted in distribution. Watch out for the bumper Christmas issue of the Newsletter with additions to the list of target species.

Keep that dung flying!!

During January I wrote the first draft of what will be the first chapter of the coprophilous Ascomycete publication: - a chapter devoted to the retirement years of the late Harry Dade who did so much work on these fungi (see Fungimap Newsletter. September 1997). This was made possible by the generosity of Mr. George Crichton who gave me copies of all his correspondence with Harry for the years 1964-1975.

While moving my office to new quarters in November last year, I found a box (which I had forgotten about!), containing dried marsupial dung which I had collected in Australia in 1982! So, in my frustration at the non-arrival of my import permit, I decided to incubate some of this while I was writing up the data on Harry. To my amazement a few Ascomycetes appeared! - notably good healthy fruit bodies of *Iodophanus carneus* and *Podospora tetraspora* (the latter I also cultured). The dung had been dried in a box for fifteen years! This gives a small idea of the longevity (and stoicism!) of some of these fungi. A season in the Australian sun may, therefore, be no problem at all....



I finally received my first parcel of dried dung released to me by the Quarantine Services on 15 February 1998. I had originally applied for a permit 18 months ago., but the law on such imports had changed in the interval of time and if I had not been making regular (fairly irate) phone calls I believe that I would still be waiting for it to arrive...

Since that date I have been enjoying looking at some beautiful fungi and recording all the Ascomycetes which I have seen. To date (28 April 1998), I have now 73 recordings of 29 species belonging to 10 genera. The most frequently encountered genera thus far are: *Podospora*, *Ascobolus* and *Saccobolus*. Most of them have been unproblematic - that is they match already-described species, but at least three need further checking before I can ascertain their full identification. I have illustrated each species when it is first seen (that is the part which takes quite a lot of time); and when that species is recorded again, only ascospore measurements are taken and records made of any differences seen from the previous recording(s). Slides are made of every collection of every species, and where the material is particularly plentiful, herbarium material is prepared for inclusion into our own herbarium here and for inclusion in an Australian herbarium. I have made cultures of a few species of particular interest, although most coprophilous Ascomycetes are difficult to culture. Altogether, it has been a most enjoyable three months and I shall be loath to begin teaching again in July.... (I have to double up and teach in half a year what I normally teach in a whole year - in order to have my 6- month 'sabbatical').

However, I am hoping that I will still be able to make records of a few dung samples

throughout that time, although naturally work will slow down a bit.

I have enjoyed correspondence with some of the kind collectors, and I will eventually contact all those people who have made this work possible.

Ann Bell

Dung Collections March - July 1998

Thank you to: Robin Corringham (2 batches), Janet Fenton (3 batches), Ron Fletcher (2 batches), Greg Kirby, Ceri Pearce, Jennie Pearce, Margery Smith, Katrina Syme.

Included amongst the dung collections of macropod, Koala and Wombat were Cassowary, (Atherton, Qld, Ceri Pearce), Emu (Tumut, NSW, Margery Smith), and caterpillar (Denmark, WA, Katrina Syme).

Again thank you to all who have spent time collecting and drying dung collections, 215 samples have now been sent to New Zealand. And, as Ann says, keep those samples dropping in - ANY herbivore dung from ANYWHERE in Australia, except Victoria's macropod and wombat droppings. From Victoria we still need the more unusual herbivore scats - more possum, glider, caterpillar, bird, fruit bat, etc.

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Fungi Records

Photos/drawings sent in by recorders (and who did not want them returned) have now been put into 'display' books with a note of the place and recorder, to show at various meetings, usually FNCV. These were also on display at the Cryptogamic Extravaganza weekend at Wilsons Promontory, where slides sent in by recorders were shown at a talk one evening. We hope eventually to get photos/illustrations/slides of all the target species. It is interesting to note the variations within each species, and **extremely** helpful for those just beginning.

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Fungimap Needs More Recorders

There are many gaps in the distribution of the target species - especially outside of Victoria. Some areas where we would like to encourage recorders are western Tasmania, the north of Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and the areas inland of the Great Divide in Queensland and New South Wales. If you know of anyone in these areas who might be interested please pass on a newsletter to them, or drop us a line with their contact details.

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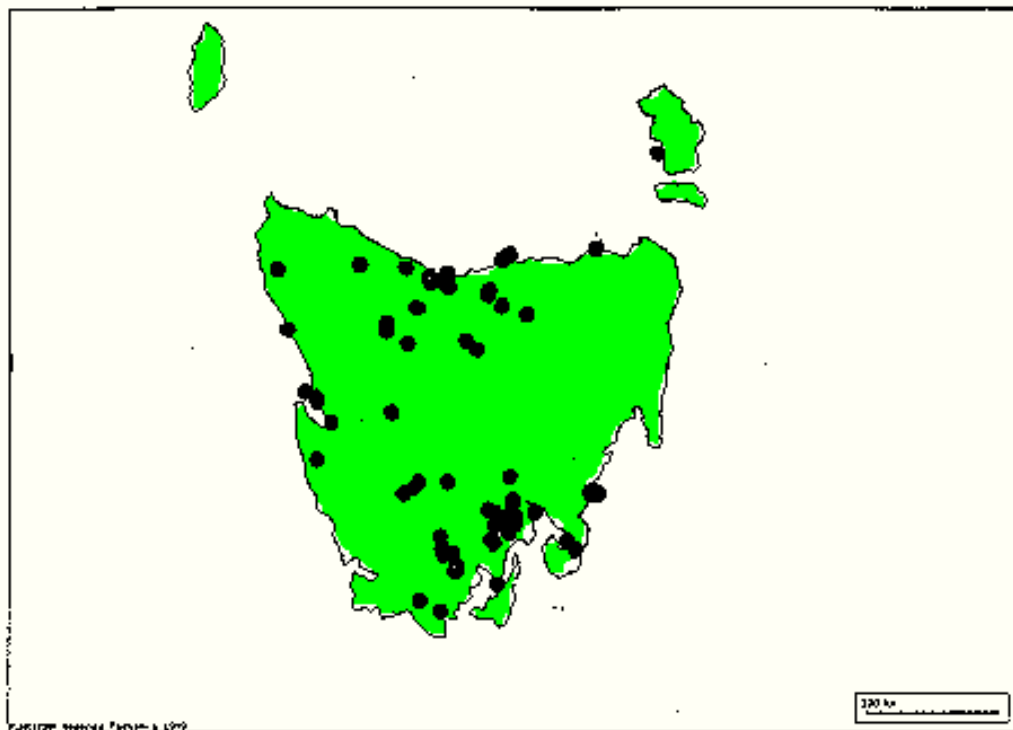
Maps Focus On Tasmania

Nearly 200 records have been received from Tasmania. Most records are from the Hobart region, but there is a reasonable coverage of the state, with the exception of the eastern third of the state, and the far south-west. There are no records from King Island, and a solitary record from Flinders Island.

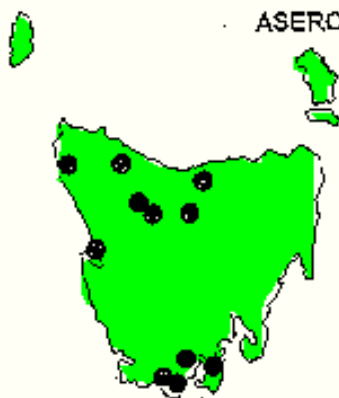
The distribution of ***Aseroe rubra*** (see map) in Tasmania is an interesting contrast to that of the same species in Victoria reported in Fungimap Newsletter 4. Whereas in Victoria the species is restricted to higher elevations (apart from a few occurrences in disturbed sites in urban areas), in Tasmania there are records from across the west and centre of the state; in rainforest, mixed forest and wet sclerophyll forest. *A. rubra* has been found at localities such as Bruny Island, South-east Cape, Holwell Gorge, Notley Gorge and in the Tewkesbury area, and is certainly not restricted to higher elevations in Tasmania. There is also a difference in the time of appearance of fruit bodies. In Victoria, most records (25 of 31) are from summer months. In Tasmania, the species has been

sighted as frequently in autumn and winter as in summer. Further analysis of the relation between time of occurrence, altitude and latitude requires more sightings from the length of the east coast of Australia.

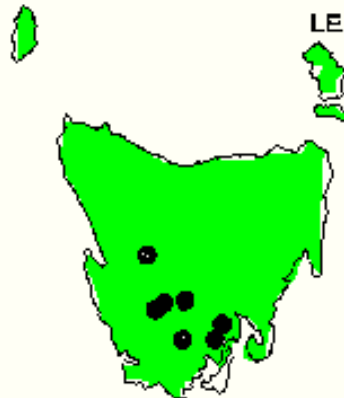
FUNGIMAP RECORDS - TASMANIA - (TO SEPT. 1998)



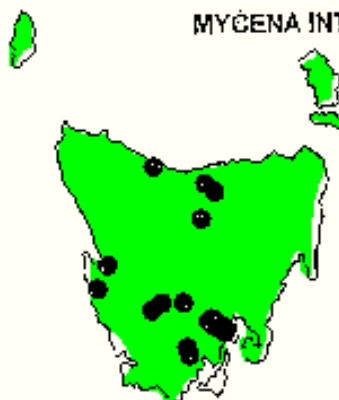
ASEROE RUBRA



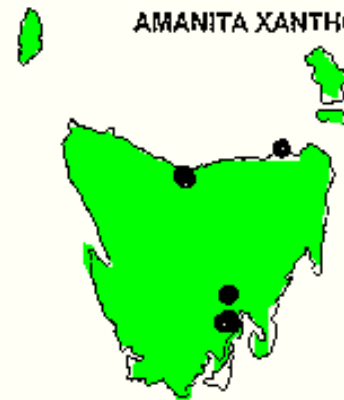
LEPISTA NUDA



MYCENA INTERRUPTA



AMANITA XANTHOCEPHALA





Lepista

nuda (see map) has been recorded from a number of sites in the Hobart area and the south west of the state. There is uncertainty as to whether this is an indigenous species or not. If it has been introduced species, it has certainly spread beyond urban areas.

Mycena interrupta (see map) is widespread in the central and western portions of Tasmania, mainly recorded from Nothofagus rainforest, and mixed Eucalyptus/Nothofagus forest. The absence of the species from the east of Tasmania needs to be confirmed by further recording in this area.

In contrast, **Amanita xanthocephala** (see map) has not been recorded from the west of Tasmania, but there are records from the Hobart area, and also from the north coast. This species occurs in drier habitats than *Mycena interrupta* (although the two are sometimes found together). The pronounced difference in rainfall in Tasmania from the dry east coast to the very high rainfall of the west coast provides a useful gradient to study distributions that might be controlled, at least in part by rainfall. Further records, especially from the east of Tasmania, will be of interest in establishing the ecological tolerance of *A. xanthocephala*.

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Donation Thank You

Donations for the Newsletter to 30 July 1998.

A thank you to Thelma Daniell for her donation towards producing Fungimap Newsletter.

All fungi records should be sent to the: Fungimap PROJECT, National Herbarium of Victoria, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra. 3141.

All administrative and general enquiries should be sent to John Julian, P.O. Box 178, Bright Vic 3741. Telephone (03) 5750 1795

Preferred contact mode is by the cheaper and environmentally sounder method of email at: wandivalley@netc.net.au

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Record Of The Year

The most interesting record this year has been the first sighting of *Mycena interrupta* in South Australia. Congratulations to Pam Catchside for spotting this highly distinctive toadstool at the Stringybark Conservation Park in June 1998, on a fallen *Eucalyptus obliqua* trunk

All published records of *Mycena interrupta* are summarised in *Fungi of Australia 2A* (1997), and none of the numerous records of the species are from South Australia. In addition, *M. interrupta* is not listed in Cleland's *Toadstools and Mushrooms and other Larger Fungi of South Australia* (1934), nor in Grgurinovic's *Larger Fungi of South Australia* (1997).

M. interrupta is a species which prefers wetter habitats in Tasmania and eastern Australia. It will be interesting to see if *M. interrupta* produces fruit bodies every year in the South Australian sites, and where else it might occur.

Australian Fungi Mapping Scheme

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Fungimap is supported by the Myer Foundation

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Putting Australian fungi on the map