

Moore Nature Reserve foray, 13 October 2019

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My annual foray for beginners at Moore Nature Reserve carried out since 2003 rarely fails to disappoint but on this occasion, we did struggle to find a good variety of specimens for beginners to examine. There were ten of us including a representative from the Wilmslow Guild Natural History Society. The ground was quite wet although thankfully it did not rain.



We got off to a good start and I was please to come across several specimens of *Geastrum triplex* (Collared Earthstar - left - Paul F Hamlyn) all in good condition. They only seem to grow in one place on the reserve. A very large group of *Tricholoma scalpturatum* (Yellowing Knight) was growing nearby. However, there was no sign of *Cyathus striatus* (Fluted Bird's Nest) seen in great profusion last year.

The heathland area was disappointing there was just the odd specimen around. Clive managed to find *Daldinia fissa* (Gorse Cramp Ball) growing on *Ulex*. This species was present in large numbers ten years ago following the burning of some gorse bushes. In recent years only the odd specimen has turned up.

The woodland area around the old canal bed was a bit more productive and included *Macrotyphula fistulosa* var. *contorta* (Pipe Club - right - Paul F Hamlyn) growing on a fallen branch. Surprisingly we did not record a single specimen of *Amanita muscaria* (Fly agaric) on this foray seen in profusion previous years. I surmise that they must have fruited earlier and had since rotted away. Although somewhat disappointing for beginners 77 species were identified in total thanks to the experienced members taking specimens home for more detailed examination



under the microscopic. All the records have now gone onto the Fungal Records Database of Britain and Ireland (FRDBI).