

Moore Nature Reserve foray, 15 August 2021

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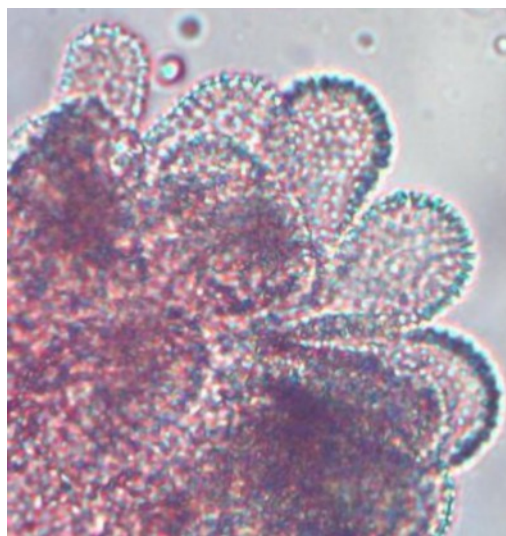
I had not visited Moore NR since 2019 as this annual foray for beginners had to be cancelled last year due to the pandemic. I was expecting about 10 people to turn out, in the event there were 19 of us. The small car park was filled to capacity but fortunately plenty of parking spaces at the side of the road. It had rained recently so there were high expectations but it was still early in the year. Past forays at this site have mainly been held in late September or early October.

As it turned out fungi were not that abundant and many specimens were still at an early stage of development. The heathland had become very overgrown presumably due to the demise of the local rabbit population who used to keep the area well grazed. A great pity since we used to find a lot of grassland species there. I avoided part of the woodland area around the old canal bed that we have always visited on past forays since there were so many biting insects around. Perhaps this is not the best time of the year to visit Moore NR.

While most fungi identified were common there were a few more unusual species around. A tiny white powdery Bonnet fungus growing on a mossy trunk turned out to be *Mycena corynephora* independently verified at home using microscopy by myself, Max Furmidge and Tony Carter. This species has cheilocystidia with dense protuberances and almost spherical spores.



Mycena corynephora



Cheilocystidia
of *M. Corynephora*

A highlight of the foray both for beginners and for more experienced members was finding a cluster of the very colourful *Melanophyllum haemospermum* (Redspored Dapperling - right).

A rarely recorded fungus identified by Tim Rogers was *Entoloma myrmecophilum* - below.



A total of 48 species including two slime moulds were recorded so not bad under the circumstances.

Acknowledgements

All photographs taken by Paul F. Hamlyn except *Entoloma myrmecophilum* taken by Tim Rogers.