

FNCV FUNGI GROUP FORAY TO DOM DOM SADDLE

29 MAY 2005

A group of enthusiastic forayers met at Dom Dom Saddle on a cold but dry Sunday morning. The area, comprising tall Eucalypt forest (including Mountain Ash), tree ferns and grassy clearings, had obviously received significant rainfall over the previous week and there were many young and fresh specimens to be found.

Ten Fungimap target species were found and we listed over 75 other species in the area, with most of the fruitbodies found in the more open, grassy areas at the edge of the forest. Eighteen of the species were included in our FNCV Fungi Group 2004 CD-ROM, demonstrating that this CD is proving useful for recognizing fungi in the field.

Some of the more remarkable finds included:

- *Cortinarius australiensis*. * This single, very large specimen (the cap was approximately 25 cm diameter) was found in soil on the grassy roadside under eucalypts. The species is unusual among *Cortinarius* because of its stout stature and its prominent membranous veil (cf. *Rozites* sp.)
- *Neolentiporus maculatissimus*. A Fungimap target (previously called *Piptoporus australiensis*), this was a large, flexible polypore fungus whose orange/tan pileus was covered with large brown scales. The creamy underside pores were deeply decurrent and bruised very dark brown.
- A couple of small young *Tricholomopsis rutilans*. * Commonly known as 'Plum & Custard Fungus' due to its reddish brown warty cap and yellow gills, these specimens were much smaller than is typical.
- Another larger *Lepiotaceae* sp. that looked superficially like *Tricholomopsis* sp. (reddish pyramidal warts and colouration like *Tricholomopsis*). However, according to Tom May, it does not appear to be *Tricholomopsis* on microcharacters! A good one to look out for in the future.
- A miniscule *Mycena* sp. growing on fallen eucalypt bark, which had a greyish white mealy cap and basal disk. The cap had a diameter approx 3 mm. Definitely a job for the hand lens! Tom May identified this as belonging to the *Mycena* section *Sacchariferae* group.
- Tiny white 'tacks' that rapidly turned bright orange/yellow when bruised. Possibly in *Mollisia* group.
- A very attractive *Leucocoprinus* 'biscuit centre'*, with a white cap and ochraceous orange (biscuit) umbo. This is probably the same as *Leucoagaricus ooliekirrus*, as shown in Bruce Fuhrer's latest book. *Leucocoprinus* sp. is similar to *Lepiota* sp., but distinguished by the lack of scales on the cap, and the cap edge is usually grooved or pleated. Tom May tells us that 'the distinction between *Leucocoprinus* and *Leucoagaricus* is mainly the pleated cap margin which is usually associated with a smaller, thinner pileus (although microscopically and on DNA the two genera merge).'
- An orange stalked cup *Aleuria rhenana*. *

* These species are very distinctive and may well be included in our next CD-ROM.

Dr Tom May (senior mycologist at the RBG) was again able to come to the FNCV Hall on the following Monday night to identify the 27 samples we had collected and provide additional informative comments. We compared our samples, photos and field notes and practised our identification skills with the FunKey tool. Thanks to Tom for his assistance with the identifications. Thanks also to Virgil Hubregtse for taking the field notes.

A full list of species found on this foray is available from me.

Paul George