

Date and time: Sunday October 19 2014 12:30 - 5:30 pm

Weather: Pr 32 mm; RH 74%; BP 102.3 kPa; calm; sun/cloud; T 14° C

Activity: Fungus Workshop conducted on site by Dr. Greg Thorn.

The weather for the Great Annual Fungus Workshop turned out to be as good as one could expect for the date. The high was 14° C and 32 mm of precipitation on the previous two days brought out the fungi. Greg Thorn, a mycologist in Western University's Biology Department, conducted the workshop for some 28 attendees that ranged from biology students to naturalists to nature lovers. Backing up Thorn were Newport Forest Stewards Erin Carroll, Bruce Parker, Pat and Kee Dewdney.



Greg Thorn (yellow hat, centre) discusses finds with some walkers, while others take in the fall air and hot cider.

I (Kee) was not with the main group that went on a long foray around the Thames River Trail. Instead I took charge of five of Thorn's students who had arrived late. We explored the Fleming Creek bluffs below the camp, finding a beautiful pink and brown *Lepista* mushroom, a Dog Stinkhorn, and two different species of Birds' Nest fungi. The more common fungi included Lemon Drops (*Bisporella citrina*), Pear-shaped Puffballs (*Lycoperdon pyriforme*), Turkey tails (*Trametes versicolor*),

a gigantic Dryad's Saddle (*P. squamosus*), two species of *Phlebius*, and others.

Highlights from the main groups (led by Thorn, Carroll and Parker) included a *Tricholoma* in the *pardinum-virgatum* species group, a Sheepskin Mushroom, and the mushroom I have called the "Hairy Parasol" below. As usual, there was a regular flood of old friends, not listed here: brackets, cups, caps and balls.

By 3:30 pm everyone had reassembled in the Nook, while Greg laid out the collected specimens on tables and Pat served hot cider and pinwheels. Greg alternated between individual consultations and addresses to the assembled attendees. How do you tell the difference between the Deadly Galerina that he held one hand and the lookalike (*Flammulina velutipes*) he held in the other? He went over the field marks. The symptoms of Galerina poisoning sent a shudder through the audience.

By 5:00 pm Pat and I began to clean up camp as the last of the attendees departed for the gate. A cold wind had come up and we marvelled that Greg had managed to pick the very best day for this event. A great success in everyone's opinion.

New Species:

	fungi	
Jelly Drops	<i>Ascocoryne cylichnium</i>	Loc GT Oc19/14
'Rubber Ears'	<i>Peziza [repanda]</i>	Loc GT Oc19/14
'Cracker Cap'	<i>Lentinus tigrinus</i>	BC kdGT Oc05/14
'Pink Flusher'	<i>Lepista nuda</i>	FCB nwGTOc19/14
Dog Stinkhorn	<i>Mutinus ravenelii</i>	FCB NW Oc19/14
Sheepskin Mushroom	<i>Hohenbuhelia mastrucata</i>	HB GT Oc19/14
'Hairy Parasol'	<i>Rhizomarasmius pyrrocephalus</i>	HB GT Oc19/14
Cannon Fungus	<i>Sphaerobolus stellatus*</i>	Loc GT Oc19/14
'Griselle'	<i>Tricholoma pardinum/virgatum</i>	RB GT Oc19/14
	microbiota	
Filamentous bacterium	[<i>Sphaerotilus</i>] sp.	FC/LR KD Oc05/14
'Short Stylonychia'	<i>Stylonychia [notophora]</i>	FC/LR KD Oc05/14
'Costate Aspidisca'	<i>Aspidisca [costata]</i>	FC/LR KD Oc05/14
'Long-toed Cephalodella'	<i>Cephalodella [gibba]</i>	FC/LR KD Oc05/14
	arthropods/2013	
Wooly Apple Aphid	<i>Eriosoma lanigerum</i>	BCF KD J112/13
'Epaulette Sawfly'	<i>Macrophya bifasciata</i>	LM KD Au23/13
'Four-spotted Plant Bug'	<i>Adelphocoris quadripunctatus</i>	LM KD Au23/13
'Menora Bug'	<i>Neottiglossa undata</i>	LM KD J112/13
'Black Arrow Bug'	<i>Neolygus vitticolis</i>	LM KD Je19/13
'Two-spotted Soldier'	<i>Cyrtoptera divisa</i>	LM KD J107/13

Notes: The first category above lists fungal species that are new to the ATBI list; the second category reflects the current check of microbial species in Fleming Creek; the third category lists neglected records from the 2013 season.

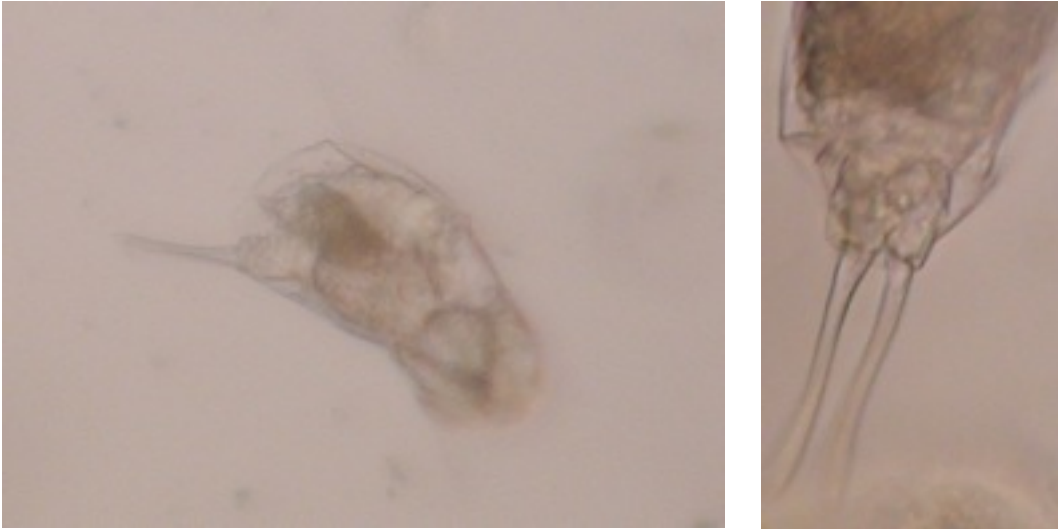
IMAGES: (first two images courtesy of Nimalka Weerasuriya)



This Dog Stinkhorn (*Mutinus ravenelii*) is growing from under a log. The stinkhorns do not release their spores as other fungi do. Instead, they produce a foul-smelling secretion that attracts flies - as above. The flies carry the spores off to other places to start the organism anew. (Something ate a hole in this one.)



Birds' Nest fungus (*Crucibulum laeve*) features a stiffened cup that holds one or more "eggs", each loaded with spores.



Rotifers like this *Cephalodella* are not protists but genuine animals, with rudimentary digestive tracts, simple muscle systems and (often) a lorica or shell-like housing that may protect the animal from certain predators. Most rotifers have a “foot” with two “toes” or proteinaceous extensions at the posterior end, as shown here in close up (right). At the anterior end a “wheel organ” or corona consists of beating cilia that appear to rotate, but do not. (almost invisible in the left image) Tiny organic particles are ingested through a small mouth near the corona. With apologies for focus.

There are some 160 species of *Cephalodella* and *C. gibba* is a close look-alike to our specimen, if not the actual species.

(Photomicrographs courtesy of Kee Dewdney.)