**Mycology Notes 2025(6) September**

These notes will appear on the NWFG web site members page. Those notes back two years also appear.

**Events:**

**BMS Talk** – Using environmental DNA for fungal metabarcoding in soils

 Join the free, open BMS Talk on **Wednesday 17th September** at 7:30pm to hear from Ben Gregson, Anglia Ruskin University, about how the use of eDNA enables researchers to detect and compare complex fungal communities in soils without the need for traditional fruiting body surveys.

 More info and booking: <https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/bms-talks.html>

[eDNA (environmental DNA) sampling involves collecting genetic material shed by organisms into the environment, rather than from direct contact with the organism. Samples are collected from diverse sources like water, soil, air, or even the gut of an animal. These samples are then processed in labs to extract DNA, which is sequenced to identify the types of organisms present, providing a cost-effective and non-destructive method for monitoring biodiversity and detecting species.]

**New Book:**

**Planet Fungi ( A photographer's foray ) by Catherine Marciniak, Stephen Axford and Tom May**

A review by Andy Woodall.

 Published by CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International) 2025. ISBN 9781486318186 (hbk) 300 plus pages and 200 often page filling photos. Price £35. Here is a link to the book: <https://www.cabM>

Initially, I was a little unsure who had actually written the book, so I think it is worth starting with a little clarification. Although there are three authors on the cover the main author is Catherine Marciniak, a journalist, but also partner and co-worker with Stephen Axford who is the photographer. Anything said or written by Stephen appears in quotation marks. Doctor Tom May is a mycologist from Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in Australia. He appears to be more like a ghost writer ensuring everything is scientifically accurate and adding up to date information. The combination works well, as it is essentially a book of superb photographs with succinct text, but has gravitas.

Most people would probably just dip into the book to enjoy the pictures at random. Taking my review of it seriously, I sat down and read it from cover to cover. I would recommend that approach if you do get hold of a copy, as there is also a story telling element to it. It is Stephen's journeys, literally and figuratively on his way from software engineer to becoming an avid mycophile trekking into remote areas. The bulk of the photographs were taken in Australasia, South America and Asia. Some fungi have a nearly world-wide distribution but the majority will be species unfamiliar to the British mycologist, even those who are fairly well travelled. I see this as a plus. It is like looking through a fantasy science fiction book.

As many photographs were taken on expeditions to thinly populated areas some are honestly described as just unidentified species, identified to genus or a cf note after the name i.e. ' compare with '. .. far better than spoiling a brilliant picture with a misidentification.

The photographs are of a very high standard, as you would expect. Many have been taken using photo stacking where layer upon layer of photographs create an image with a great depth of field. It also gives sharper images in low light which is often needed where fungi lurk. I love the macro-photography where the substrate and habitat are shown in the same shot, all in detail.

There are also richly illustrated chapters on lichens as well as bioluminescence and bio-fluorescence (pet interests of mine). The book finishes on new discoveries, conservation, ecology and the importance of fungi in fighting climate change.

This book is a celebration of fungi but is much more than a 'nice picture book '. I can thoroughly recommend it and do take the trouble to actually read it

Andy Woodall

**Journals:**

**BMS Academic Journals** now published: The papers noted below are those of more relevance to our macro world.

**Fungal Biology Reviews Volume 53, September 2025**

Crowdsourcing the hidden biodiversity of fungi to solve global crises

‘Tyger! Tyger! burning bright’ – but fungi are out of sight

and papers on approaches to fungal insect pest management and control of fungal crop pathogens

**Fungal Biology Volume 129, Issue 6, October 2025**

Myxomycetes in urban green space in subtropical China: Spatiotemporal patterns override forest type effects

**Fungal Ecology Volume 77, October 2025**

Elevational range expansion of Betula pubescens may be slowed by lack of suitable mycorrhizal symbionts in alpine soils

John L Taylor 15/9/25