



# OMPHALINA

ISSN 1925-1858



*Newsletter of*



Vol. VI, No 5  
Aug 7, 2015



# FORAY NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

*is an amateur, volunteer-run, community, not-for-profit organization with a mission to organize enjoyable and informative amateur mushroom forays in Newfoundland and Labrador and disseminate the knowledge gained.*

*Webpage:* [www.nlmushrooms.ca](http://www.nlmushrooms.ca)

## ADDRESS

Foray Newfoundland & Labrador  
21 Pond Rd.  
Rocky Harbour NL  
A0K 4N0  
CANADA

E-mail: [info AT nlmushrooms DOT ca](mailto:info@nlmushrooms.ca)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS      CONSULTANTS

Michael Burzynski

PRESIDENT

Geoff Thurlow

TREASURER

Tina Leonard

SECRETARY

Jim Cornish

Jamie Graham

Anne Marceau

Faye Murrin

Michele

Piercey-Normore

Helen Spencer

Marian Wissink

MYCOLOGICAL

Dave Malloch

NB MUSEUM

AUDITOR

Gordon Janes

BONNELL COLE JANES

LEGAL COUNSEL

Andrew May

BROTHERS & BURDEN

**OMPHALINA**, newsletter of Foray Newfoundland & Labrador, has no fixed schedule of publication, and no promise to appear again. Its primary purpose is to serve as a conduit of information to registrants of the upcoming foray and secondarily as a communications tool with members.

Issues of **OMPHALINA** are archived in:

Library and Archives Canada's Electronic Collection <<http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/201/300/omphalina/index.html>>, and

Centre for Newfoundland Studies, Queen Elizabeth II Library (printed copy also archived) <[collections.mun.ca/cdm/search/collection/omphalina/](http://collections.mun.ca/cdm/search/collection/omphalina/)>.

The content is neither discussed nor approved by the Board of Directors. Therefore, opinions expressed do not represent the views of the Board, the Corporation, the partners, the sponsors, or the members. Opinions are solely those of the authors and uncredited opinions solely those of the Editor.

Please address comments, complaints, contributions to the self-appointed Editor, Andrus Voitk:

seened [AT gmail DOT com](mailto:AT@gmail.com),

... who eagerly invites contributions to **OMPHALINA**, dealing with any aspect even remotely related to mushrooms. Authors are guaranteed instant fame—fortune to follow. Authors retain copyright to all published material, and submission indicates permission to publish, subject to the usual editorial decisions. Issues are freely available to the public on the FNL website. Because content is protected by authors' copyright, editors of other publications wishing to use any material, should ask first. No picture, no paper. Material should be original and should deal with the mycota of Newfoundland and Labrador. Cumulative index and detailed Information for Authors available on our website.

## **COVER**

*Amanita flavoconia*, September 11, 2014, Cobb's Lane, Gander. Photo: Jim Cornish. Welcome back (again)!

## CONTENT

Editor's comments .....	2
<b>Foray matters</b> .....	3
<i>Amanita flavoconia</i>	
Jim Cornish .....	4
Bishop's sketchbook .....	7
Blue corts: <i>Cortinarius brunneotinctus</i>	
Kare Liimatainen .....	8
<i>Ramariopsis subarctica</i>	
Andrus Voik .....	10
<i>Clavaria argillacea &amp; sphagnophila</i>	
Andrus Voik .....	12
<i>Neohygrocybe subovina</i>	
Andrus Voik, Henry Mann .....	14
<i>Pleurotus populinus</i>	
Andrus Voik .....	15
Poet's corner	
Michel Savard .....	16
Mushroom calendar de la poésie bilingue	
Michel Savard .....	17
Herbarium SWGC Microscopy Workshop	
D. Sveshnikov et al. ....	18
Mail basket .....	20
Partners .....	inside back cover
Notice of Foray 2015 .....	back cover



## Message from the Editor

As you have noted, in response to some suggestions (too much to absorb), *OMPHALINA* has slimmed down and become less frequent. Part of the reason for the heavy content in the recent past has been that most of it focussed on new developments, much of it technical, or on somewhat uncommon species. Treatment of our common mushrooms has lagged. Why? Quite simply, because these contributions have not come in. For a good balance, it is important that good articles introducing common species remain a significant part of the mix. In the past, Jim did much of this (which is why we are so happy to see him back this time), but we have had several other contributors over the years as well. The latter have been missing lately, so that when Jim had to scale back his activity, the lack was felt.

In the interest of a well balanced newsletter, we invite, nay challenge! all members to work up one article describing one common mushroom. Just one. The sycophants of Editorial Board and all their obsequious lackeys in the Editorial Suites welcome an opportunity to work with you to polish it up, if you want some help, or to proof it, if you have factual concerns. Ten such articles a year would be worth their weight in gold and 20 would be tantamount to heaven! The character of the newsletter you get is in your hands. Leave it to the editor, and you deserve what you get!

Here is a major bit of good news. Bob Scott of the Bonne Bay Marine Station overhauled the Station's microscopes and ordered a full complement of new equipment. He asked Michael Burzynski to help reviewing the remainder (these are the ones the Marine Station has kindly lent to us for each foray for years), and the upshot was that FNL now has six excellent compound microscopes and two dissecting scopes for its use as a "permanent loan". This gives

us much more flexibility and our concerns to arrange for working scopes in good order each year are behind us.

When the Herbarium at Grenfell College also got funding for an advanced compound microscope to complement the existing dissecting scope, the thought of combining forces to arrange a Microscopy Workshop cropped up. Arrangements have now been made and the Workshop details are announced on pp. 18–19 of this issue. Page 19 is the Registration Form. If you want to register and can separate p. 19 from the rest of the issue, fill it in and send it in. If separating it is a problem, look for a Microscopy Workshop Registration Form on our website <[nlmushrooms.ca](http://nlmushrooms.ca)>. Numbers are limited and participation is free, so act fast, if you are interested.

Apart from Jim's treatment of *Amanita flavoconia*, this issue will introduce you to some blue *Cortinarius* species, discuss four mushroom species new to the province (two to North America and one to the world), and update two taxa. AND it will feature the reappearance of our Governor General's award winning poet, Michel Savard with another poetry page, followed by an introduction to his clalendar of similar poetry. Good summer reading just ahead of the mushroom season.

See you at the Foray!

andrus



# FORAY MATTERS...



## Be prepared for Foray 2015

Foray 2015 is less than two months away, and although I am one of the most forgetful people in the group, it is my job to remind you about a few things that you should bring.

The foray is in Gros Morne National Park again this year, so each person will need to carry a park permit. Foray NL will provide these for anyone who does not have one. If you already have an annual permit for the park, PLEASE contact me at <[info AT nlmushrooms DOT ca](mailto:info@nlmushrooms.ca)> as soon as possible so that we do not buy too many permits.

The park can be cool and moist in late September, so do not forget to bring a warm windbreaker or sweater, a raincoat, and waterproof footwear. A couple of pairs of footwear are a good idea in case one pair gets wet.

Killdevil camp will supply bed linens, but please bring your own towels, shampoo, soap, and other toiletries, and perhaps an extra blanket if you find it chilly at night. If you forget, the camp will have extras available. A headlamp or flashlight is a good idea, as is a water bottle, and don't forget your collecting basket or pack.

Moose hunting begins in the park backcountry on September 12, so mushroom collecting trips will avoid those areas. However, please be sure to bring your orange safety cap and whistle (if you

have been to a previous foray). If you cannot find them, or if you are new to the foray, we will have a extras available. If you own and know how to use them, bring your GPS unit or map and compass. We collect in groups, so there is not much chance of getting lost, but you should be prepared.

This has been a cool summer in Gros Morne (see title banner), so it has been slow growing for green plants. That may mean that it will also be a slow year for the mushrooms associated with them—we'll see. A few small Chanterelles are already up, and Fly Agarics are showing, so Ceps cannot be far behind. This year's foray is in late September, so unlike last year, we should see a good variety of *Cortinarius*, *Lactarius* and *Tricholoma* species, and I really hope that we will have a more successful Pick for the Pot event!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Killdevil, and if there was anything else that I was supposed to say, I've forgotten—like don't forget the Mycoblitz of Sir Richard Squires Park on Friday. Oh, and if you plan to join us this year, I encourage you to register now. I believe at press time we still have four spots available.

**Michael Burzynski**  
President

# My Favourite Mushroom

Jim Cornish

## *Amanita flavoconia*

Fall 2014 was a “tale of two falls” in my part of Central Newfoundland. While most of the forest trails were devoid of many mycorrhizal mushrooms I commonly found in previous years, the trail around Cobb’s Pond Rotary Park was a different story. Throughout the summer and early fall, the pond was higher than normal, thanks to the town of Gander’s decision to control the outflow to keep the water level high for the wharf and beach areas in the redeveloped public park. This also raised the water table, saturating many sections of the forest floor along the trail. I believe this saturated ground created the right conditions to increase both mushroom numbers and diversity well beyond what I’ve seen over the previous five years, when pond levels were regulated by mother nature and were much lower.

A new-to-me mushroom found at Cobb’s Pond this past fall was *Amanita flavoconia*, a species widespread throughout eastern North America and common in the coniferous forests across Newfoundland and Labrador. From a distance, *A. flavoconia* might be confused with *A. muscaria*, but on closer examination it has several distinct features that distinguish it from its better known cousin. On continental North America, *A. flavoconia* might be confused with *Amanita frostiana*, very uncommon,

possibly absent, in this province.

*Amanita flavoconia*, first described by American naturalist George Francis Atkinson in 1902, is an aptly named mushroom. The genus name, *amanita*, comes from a Greek word meaning mushroom, while the specific epithet is a combination of “flavo,” from a Latin root meaning yellowish, and “conia,” from a Greek root meaning dust. *A. flavoconia* has several common names including “yellow patches”, “yellow wart”, “orange Amanita”, and “yellow-dust Amanita”.

Like all other species in its genus, *Amanita flavoconia* has a partial veil and a universal veil. These are thin, fragile membranes that protect the mushroom while it develops. The partial veil covers the gills while the universal veil covers the entire mushroom. As the mushroom emerges from the substrate and its cap and stem expand, these veils fragment. In some species, veil remnants disappear but in

Photo: Andrus Voitk





*Amanita flavoconia* and many other amanitas, they remain to create four distinct features that play key roles in identification. Remnants of the universal veil typically appear as scales or warts on the cap and as a powdery cup-like sac called a volva at the base of the stem. Partial veil remnants create a skirt-like ring called an annulus around the mid-stem and a hanging trim along the margins of the cap.

*Amanita flavoconia* is a beautiful mushroom. Shortly after it emerges from the substrate and breaks free of its universal veil, its cap appears conical becoming convex then flat with a slight umbo with age and wavy and concave in late maturity. The cap measures 3 to 7 cm in diameter and varies from yellow to orange, or intensely orange in the center and yellow along the margins. Caps exposed to direct sunlight tend to be paler. Remnants of the universal veil form yellowish warts that are typically scattered over the entire cap in juveniles. The warts tend to darken and except for a few that might persist on the umbo, they largely disappear with age. The cap flesh is thin and off-white in colour.

The gills of *Amanita flavoconia* are slightly crowded and free. The short lamellulae are diverse in length and plentiful. The spore print is white. Reports of a yellowish spore print have been attributed to the “dusty” remnants of the partial veil that stick loosely to the gills.

The stem of *Amanita flavoconia* is hollow at least below the ring. The stem measures 5-10 cm long, up to 2 cm in diameter and has a characteristically bulbous base, surrounded by an ephemeral, dusty, yellow volva, quite unlike the more substantial volva we are used to seeing in most amanitas.

### Illustrations

Top: A wary *A. flavoconia* cap just emerging and breaking through its powdery universal veil.

Middle: Cap covered by warty flakes of universal veil remnants, still yellow at the edges, but middle ones becoming grayish on top.

Bottom: Few grayish warts left on the disc (the central portion of the cap). Note the darker, orange disc and yellower edges on this and the previous photo. Note also that the cap edge is not particularly striate, as it is for *A. frostiana*.







Photo: Andrus Voitk

Around the upper mid-part of the stem *A. flavoconia* sports an eye-catching skirt-like annulus. The stem flesh is white inside, but is characteristically yellow on the outside due to a dusting from partial veil fragments near the top and universal veil fragments near the bottom. This “dust” is easily dislodged when the mushroom is handled. When collected, *A. flavoconia* should be wrapped to eliminate the possibility of contaminating the gills and spore prints of other species in the basket.

*Amanita flavoconia* is odourless and reportedly tasteless. It is presumed to be toxic and should be avoided. The mushroom grows alone, scattered, or gregariously. In our province it associates almost exclusively with spruce, but elsewhere beech, birch and oak are also listed as associates. Like chanterelles, it prefers well-drained but moist sandy soil and the presence of moss or lichen. Care must be taken not to include this species in your chanterelle basket! It has happened.

I have waited years to find one of these brilliant and beautiful mushrooms, a standard in any mushroom guide for eastern North America. After such a long wait, I was rewarded with five specimens spread over a square metre on a moist forest floor at Cobb’s Pond. One of the mushrooms was emerging from the forest floor and erupting through its universal veil as pictured here. Because I have never seen this emergence in the field, despite years of looking, *Amanita flavoconia* is now one of my favourite mushrooms.



Photo: Andrus Voitk

### Illustrations

Top: *A. flavoconia*. Note dark orange disc, yellower periphery, yellow warts, no striations, yellow ring and stem and powdery yellow “volva” around the bulbous base.

Bottom: A look-alike in the same habitat is *A. elongata*. It differs from *A. flavoconia* by having an evenly and lighter yellow cap and a white ring and stem, the stem longer than that of *A. flavoconia*.

*Note:* The partial veil of both young specimens is still covering the gills, so that it is not seen as a ring yet.





# *The Bishop's Sketchbook*



Which *Amanita* species is this?

# Let's identify blue corts

—what a pleasure!

Kare Liimatainen

Photo: Andrus Voitk

*Cortinarius* (Pers.) Gray is the largest genus of the Agaricales (agarics, or gilled mushrooms). No one knows the true diversity of the genus but it must be thousands of species. The FNL cumulative species list records 152 taxa of the genus, and the number continues to rise every year. *Cortinarius* species are ectomycorrhizal fungi, associated with many of the trees of the Northern hemisphere. Although their fruitbodies vary in size and colour, they are usually easy to identify to genus. Common to (almost) all species is a cobweb-like partial veil protecting the young

lamellae (the cortina—curtain—from which the generic name is derived), brown ornamented spores giving a cinnamon brown to rusty brown spore deposit, and brownish gill color when mature.

Even if all the thousands of species do not fruit in any one region, identification to species is much more difficult. Almost any interested mycophile can learn to identify 10-20 species of *Cortinarius* right in the forest, characteristic species like *C. armillatus* (Fr.) Fr. A diehard, all-around mushroom expert can learn about 100

*Cortinarius* species; above that you can call yourself a specialist, and realize that you have spent a large amount of your free time looking at *Cortinarius* spores. Even so, in many case you are still dealing with species groups rather than with single species because of the difficulties with morphological identification. To avoid this you may want to start saving your money for a DNA sequencer instead of a microscope. Or get Nokia's app, Ident-A-Cort™. Send me a note if interested, because I can do better than the quoted price of \$1,800.00 US + taxes, duties, postage & handling, and I can get a nice discount for group orders of 100 or more.

Recently Tuula, Renée, André, Joe Ammirati and I described a new species of purplish cort, common in NL. It is one of four species which are all pretty easy to learn: *C. alboviolaceus* (Pers.) Fr., *C. brunneotinctus* Niskanen, Liimat., Ammirati, A. Paul & Lebeuf, *C. camphoratus* (Fr.) Fr., and *C. traganus* (Fr.) Fr. The other three might be familiar to you already. Although they look somewhat similar, they are not closely related, but have similar features due to convergent evolution.



*Cortinarius alboviolaceus*



The easiest way to identify these species is to cut a mushroom in half lengthwise and look at the color of the flesh. If the entire flesh is a strong brownish-yellow, then it is *C. traganus*. If it is a pale blue-white (sometimes part of the stem can be pale brown) you have three choices, *C. alboviolaceus*, *C. camphoratus* or *C. brunneotinctus*. Next, smell the gills. If they smell bad, it is *C. camphoratus*, if not then *C. alboviolaceus* or *C. brunneotinctus*. To distinguish these last two from one another look at the cap. That of *C. alboviolaceus* is silky and shiny, sometimes a bit sticky, silvery bluish grey to almost white, whereas the cap of *C. brunneotinctus* is dry and tomentose (velvety to wooly), often with some brownish tints.

If you do not want to slice your finds, then you must learn to do the first step just based on smell. *C. traganus* and *C. camphoratus* both smell bad, but different kind of bad. *C. traganus* has a fruity kind of smell, a bit reminiscent of apple or even pear, but the smell of *C. camphoratus* is just simply bad, something like rotten potatoes. Most people think *C. camphoratus* smells worse, but a few think the opposite. When smelling a mushroom, do not keep a meter between the fruitbody and your nose! Get intimate! They are not poisonous (but do not eat them, just the same). Bring the gills so they almost touch the tip of your nose and smell. If the weather is cold and there is no smell, just take the fruitbodies inside, wait a few hours, and the smell should be there.

All four species are known from Western to Eastern North America and from Europe. *Cortinarius alboviolaceus* grows with deciduous trees—even one birch in a coniferous forest is enough—and the others grow with coniferous trees.





# *Ramariopsis subarctica*

first report  
in North  
America

Andrus Voitek

Photo: Maria Voitek



Photo: Roger Smith

*Ramariopsis kunzei*. Note the white colour and less hairy stem.

It is a good feeling when an old mystery gets solved. So it is with the coral mushroom depicted in the title banner. We came on this lovely specimen in an unexpected place—in the middle of a raised *Sphagnum* bog at L'Anse aux Meadows. Now, normally any sane person will give coral mushrooms a wide berth, because they are so notoriously difficult to identify. Apart from a few common or otherwise distinct ones, they are a playground reserved for the fool or the specialist. Two things made us ignore this stated wisdom. First, it was so distinct and out of place, and in perfect shape, that to ignore it would be a sin. Second, it had a few characters of a familiar coral mushroom that we felt we knew.

We found three fruit bodies, the largest about 45 mm high and equally wide at its widest, limbs branching from a single, noticeably hairy stem. The colour was yellow, with a yellowish brown stem. Because it resembled *Ramariopsis kunzei*, we began with this tentative identification. Although some off-white, or even yellow shade is occasionally noted on *R. kunzei*, it is generally an all-white mushroom, and its stem is not quite as hairy as this one. Ergo, we were unhappy, but, try as we might, we could not come up with a better candidate. The other common, small, white coral in our area is *Clavulina coralloides*, a denizen of coniferous woods. Even lost in a bog, it should be easy to differentiate, because



it has sharp, branched tips like a cock's comb. Often it can also be identified by its parasite, the gray ascomycete *Helminthosphaeria clavariarum*, usually beginning at the stem, eventually covering the entire coral. Reluctantly, we signed our yellow bog beauty off as *R. kunzei*. Some of its sphagnicolous companions in the Viking bog were *Arrhenia gerardiana*, *Clavaria sphagnophila*, *Cortinarius huronensis*, *Gymnopus alpina*, *Gyroflexus brevibasidiatus*, *Hypholoma elongatum*, *Hypholoma myositis*, *Suillus paluster*, *Suillus spectabilis*, an *Omphalina* species, two sphagnicolous *Galerina* species, some rusts, and several unidentified species in the *Leccinum scabrum* complex.

Two years later, re-researching another mushroom, I came across the description of *Ramariopsis subarctica*, an uncommon coral mushroom known to inhabit northern *Sphagnum* bogs.<sup>1</sup> Its picture immediately brought to mind our yellow coral of 2012. Could this be it?

The description fit: a small densely branching yellowish coral with blunt tips, arising from a single stem. The branches may vary from light to darker yellow, but the stem is usually a yellowish brown, and quite hairy. The microscopic examination also fit: it had round,

spiny spores 4.8-6.7 µm in size (Q=1.1). *R. kunzei* also has round spiny spores, but they rarely reach 5 µm in greatest diameter. The clincher is the habitat: raised northern *Sphagnum* bogs are the characteristic habitat for *R. subarctica*.

Mystery solved! This is quite a notable find, because it is the first report of the species in North America. Hitherto it is known from northern Scandinavia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Siberia. Quite likely it will be found across the subarctic belt of NA. The non-NL reader may be interested to know that L'Anse aux Meadows is the National Historic Site preserving the only known North American Viking settlement outside Greenland, now over 1,000 years old. George Decker, a local Newfoundlander, led Norwegian archeologists Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad to the site, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our mushroom was collected during the Viking Foray with Norwegian mycologists Gro Gulden and Jon-Otto Årnæs, described earlier.<sup>2</sup> The type specimen for the species also hails from Norway. See? It all fits!

#### Reference

1. Vasutova M, Dvorak D, Beran M: Rare macromycetes in raised bogs from the Hruby Jeseník Mts. (Czech Republic). *Czech Mycology* 65:45-67. 2013.
2. Voitek A: Return of the Vikings. *Omphalina* 3(11):16-20. 2012.



Photo: Roger Smith



Photo: Maria Voitek

**Top:** *Cavulina coralloides*. The sharp, cock's comb end branches readily distinguish this coral from *Ramariopsis kunzei*. It also is prey to *Helminthosphaeria clavariarum*. The gray parasite can be seen at the base of the stems to the right. **Middle:** Top view of a small *Ramariopsis subarctica* growing with three *Clavaria sphagnophila* clubs (one broken), another northern *Sphagnum* loving coral. **Bottom:** Known world distribution of *Ramariopsis subarctica*. Pink indicates the holotype, and cyan our find, the first report of this species in North America. (Map in the public domain, from the internet.)





# *Clavaria argillacea* & *C. sphagnicola*

## —two northern yellow clavarias



Andrus Voitek

Clavarias are small club-like Basidiomycetes, much like the earth tongues and similar Ascomycetes. Their fruit bodies may show a little branching and some fusing, but do not get to look like real coral mushrooms, such as *Clavulina*, *Ramariopsis* or *Ramaria*. Their lifestyle has not always been obvious, and many have been suspected to be saprobes. One generally uncommon *Clavaria* is *C. argillacea*, both var. *argillacea*, and var. *sphagnophila*. Here in Newfoundland and Labrador we are fortunate, because our northern setting makes this uncommon mushroom relatively accessible.

Hunting mushrooms is like any other hunting—you go where the mushrooms are. For this, you need to know their habitat, just as the fisherman or hunter needs to know salmon pools, rabbit trails or moose yards. Looking at our foray lists gives a good hint: both clubs have been collected on two separate forays in Labrador; two separate forays on the Great Northern Peninsula and one foray in the Main River area. Neither has been recovered further south on forays on the Island. Thus, to find them, you go to our northern heaths, barrens and bogs. If you don't live in those areas, you may still find them if you seek out

suitable similar habitats in your region. For example, I suspect that people on the Avalon will find one or both on Hawke Hill and similar barren elevations. Around our home, we can find one regularly atop the barren Mt. Ignoble, a burn bald. Just as habitat is important, so is time. Ours begin to fruit late in the season, just before the onset of frost and snow. Do not search in midsummer.

*Clavaria argillacea* grows on turf, forming mycorrhizal associations with the ericaceous heath flora. *C. sphagnicola* grows in raised bogs, usually tightly bound to living *Sphagnum*. Its food source is not known, but is suspected also to be mycorrhizal with ericaceous bog plants. *C. sphagnicola* was treated as a variety of *C. argillacea*, but recent phylogeny analysis has shown it to be a good species in its own right.<sup>1</sup>

### Reference

1. Olariaga I, Salcedo I, Daniëls PP, Spooner B, Kautmanova I: Taxonomy and phylogeny of yellow *Clavaria* species with clamped basidia—*Clavaria flavostellifera* sp. nov. and the typification of *C. argillacea*, *C. flavipes* and *C. sphagnicola*. *Mycologia*, 116: 43-49. 2014.

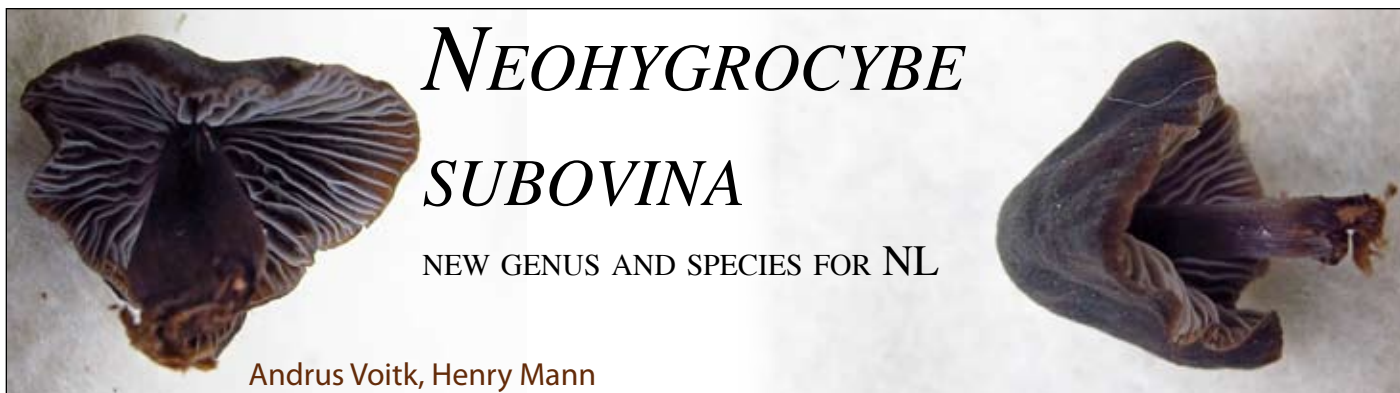


*Clavaria argillacea* (see also title banner), found on heaths and barrens, among *Ericaceae*, is broader, cespitose and may fuse or branch. Its spores are slimmer.

*Clavaria sphagnicola* (below), found on *Sphagnum* in raised bogs, is slimmer, grows singly, and does not fuse or branch. Its spores are broader. Long thought a variety of the above, phylogeny has shown it to be a good species in its own right.

They occupy different habitats in northern tundra, subtundra and barrens habitats.





If a list were ever made of the significant mushroom finds along the trails of the Pasadena Ski and Nature Park, it would give the town of Pasadena cause to be proud of the wisdom to define nature study as one aim of their ski trails. Of course, it is not the mycodiverse trail that is responsible for the finds—there have to be interested people on the trails. Thus it was the second author, not the Ski Park, who collected another good find, a new genus and species for Newfoundland and Labrador.

This little black mushroom stood totally alone in the middle of a trail on a blustery November 5th morn. About 3 cm tall, with a dry, bluntly conical, velvety cap, attached gray gills with a lighter edge, at times forked, joined by many low cross

veins, stem velvety black as the cap, flesh brown, with no colour change when bruised or cut. Odour and taste not noted.

It looked like a *Hygrocybe* s.l., but which one? A search of the North American waxcap book<sup>1</sup> showed two dry dark hygrocybes, *H. ovina* and *H. subovina*. Comparing the two, *H. subovina* was darker; had a sweet smell (as opposed to an ammoniac sheepy smell), did not stain red, and had short, round to almost round (subglobose) spores.

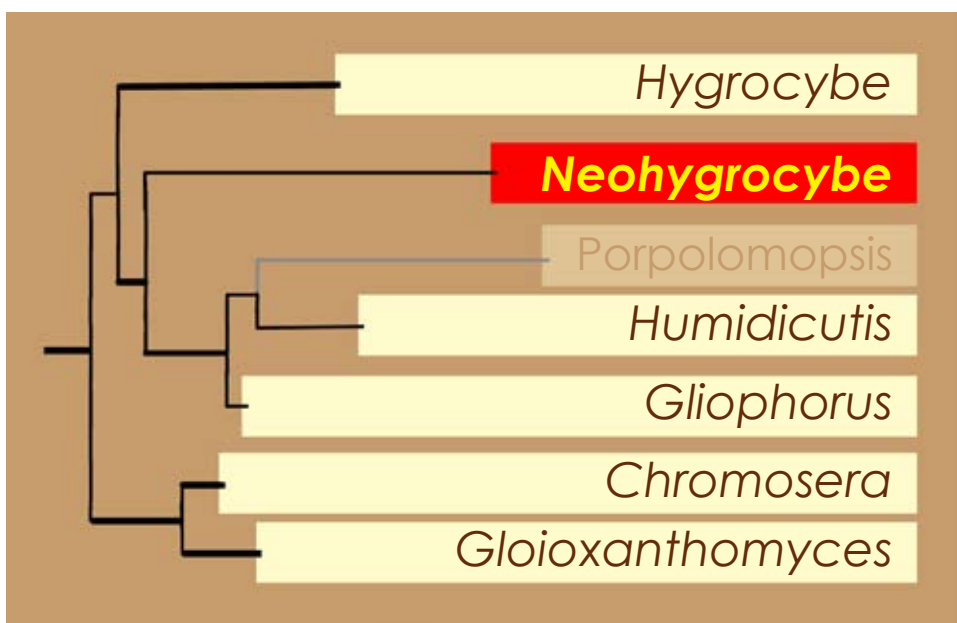
Ours had the macrocharacters of *H. subovina*. Microscopic examination showed very few spores: a 45-minute search was needed to find 10 spores, all round to almost round,  $4.8\text{--}7.7 \times 3.9\text{--}5.3 \mu\text{m}$ . The size fits best with *H. subovina*, just a

bit small, but the lack of sporulation may have resulted in the inclusion of immature spores.

As readers of *OMPHALINA* know, *Hygrocybe* has been split into several derived genera.<sup>2</sup> Using that classification, the current name for our find is *Neohygrocybe subovina*. Until this find, species of that new genus have not been known from this province. Already you can appreciate the advantage of the new classification: not only do we claim to find a new species, but a whole new genus for the province!

#### References

1. Bessette AE, Roody WC, Sturgeon WE, Bessette AR: Waxcap mushrooms of Eastern North America. Syracuse University Press, Syracuse. 2012.
2. Lodge J: The splitting of *Hygrocybe*. *OMPHALINA* 5(1):2-6. 2014.



Adapted phylogenetic tree showing the genera derived from *Hygrocybe*, (sans *Cuphophyllus*).<sup>2</sup> The two genera on the red and tan backgrounds, *Neohygrocybe* and *Porpolomopsis* were not known from Newfoundland and Labrador at the time. The discovery of *Neohygrocybe subovina* in Pasadena leaves only *Porpolomopsis* unreported from this province.





# PLEUROTUS POPULINUS

Andrus Voitk

The above must be the worst photo to appear in *OMPHALINA* to date. Why use such a poor picture? Simple: you don't have a better one. Here is how it happened. Maria and I went up to Barry's Lookout, near our home, to have a cup of tea at a higher elevation. On the way home, we passed a copse of poplars. One dead trunk harboured two old dried up fungi, whose best before date was a vague memory. Sitten with the presbyphobia endemic in our society, I meant to give them a wide berth, but as an afterthought, tossed them in the backpack without looking—jut in case they turned out interesting. They did.

Although old and partly withered, clearly they were a species of *Pleurotus*, genus of the oyster mushroom. In a review of our oysters and allies (*OMPHALINA* 4(6):12-15), the only *Pleurotus* identified was *P. dryinus*. The host, poplar, triggered the memory of an e-mail exchange with Greg Thorn.

No oysters? That's just plain weird! You should have *Pleurotus populinus*, except that perhaps it is a continental boreal thing that hates humidity. You certainly have the hosts! Even *Pleurotus ostreatus* (or something that gets that name when collected) is found on *Abies balsamea*, which you certainly also have. Wow, that is almost a study/article in itself!

*Pleurotus* has the potential for two great mycological outreach/education services:

1. grow your own native oyster mushrooms (à la David Boyle)
2. demonstrate native oysters paralyzing and eating nematodes in a class at MUN ...

*Pleurotus populinus* grows on poplar, has a rudimentary lateral stem, while *P. dryinus* has a definite, often central stem. The cap of *P. populinus* is tan, not dark like that of *P. ostreatus* and *P. pulmonarius*. It also

has longer spores than the latter two species. Finally, it is the earliest one in the group to fruit, late spring to early summer. Our find had finished fruiting before the middle of July, whereas all our collections of *P. dryinus* were made Sep.–Nov.

The host, the cap colour and the stem and fruiting time fit.

Microscopically, its spores measured  $11.6\text{--}14.5 \times 2.9\text{--}4.8 \mu\text{m}$  ( $Q_{av}+3.3$ ), longer than those of *P. ostreatus* or *pulmonarius*. Put it all together and we have pretty solid evidence for a new species for the province, just as Greg predicted.

Please keep your eyes open for these in your travels. If you find fresh ones, please get some nice photographs and let me know. I'd love to follow this with some decent photos. And if you want cultures to grow your own or to show nemophagia, let me know and I can put you in contact with people...

# *POET'S CORNER*

Michel Savard

## **PEZIZA BADIA** **Pézize baie** **Bay Peziza**

Brun froncée, la pézize, bourse porteuse  
des sens détournés de l'olive,  
répand sur le sol ses ragots.

\*

Frowning brown leather pouch,  
filled with the double entendre of olives,  
you spread rumours above the twigs.



## **TURBINELLUS FLOCCOSUS** **Chanterelle à flocons** **Woolly Chanterelle**

Miraculeuse et sculpturale,  
la chanterelle trompette à toutes rides  
le maelström orangé du désir.

\*

Miraculous and statuesque,  
you blow your orange horn  
on the spent duff of desire.



# 2016 Calendar of mushroom poetry—bilingue

FNL member Michel Savard has printed a small run of his 2016 calendar, which he offers for sale.

## What you get:

1. Photographs, on card-stock paper, of 16 different species of mushrooms of the Avalon, accompanied by the English, French and scientific names of each.
2. Two poems inspired by the mushrooms per page, one in English and one in French, parallel, yet distinct. If you need to know how to say red in French, buy a dictionary. If you take joy in learning that “red displays” of russulas can also be thought of as “affichages fougueux”, this calendar is for you.
3. Four extra months, from September to December, 2015 (to include the upcoming picking season).



**\$32.50**

## Autographed calendars

may be ordered directly from Michel

<[michel.a.savard@gmail.com](mailto:michel.a.savard@gmail.com)>,

or he will be pleased to sign one for you at the Show and Sell table at the Foray.

# MICROSCOPY WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 19, 2015

TO REGISTER:  
Fill out the form, next page & e-mail  
or  
download same from [nlmushrooms.ca](http://nlmushrooms.ca),  
fill in and e-mail.

GRENFELL  
CAMPUS

MEMORIAL  
UNIVERSITY

Bonne Bay  
marine station



**FORAY**  
NEWFOUNDLAND  
AND LABRADOR



**SUPPORTED BY:**

**MUN QUICK START FUND FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**



# MICROSCOPY WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 19, 2015

Herbarium SWGC, Grenfell Campus, MUN



GRENFELL  
CAMPUS



## Faculty / Organizers

Greg Thorn

University of Western Ontario  
Workshop leader

Nils Hallenberg

University of Göteborg

Carol Gilbert

Grenfell

Henry Mann

Grenfell (in absentia)

Bob Scott

Bonne Bay Marine Station/Grenfell

Dmitry Sveshnikov

Grenfell

Julie Sircom

Grenfell

Andrus Voitk

Foray Newfoundland & Labrador

## PROGRAM

### Morning

#### MICROSCOPY 101

Introduction or refresher for the beginner

8:50 AM Welcome

9:00 AM The microscope & microscopy

10:30 AM Coffee break

10:45 AM Workshop

### Afternoon

#### MICROSCOPY in MYCOLOGY

Basic mushroom identification

1:00 PM Welcome

1:10 PM Advanced microscopy

2:05–2:20 PM Coffee break

2:25–4:15 PM Workshop

#### Participant feedback

Certificate of attendance for a session will be given on receipt of completed feedback form.

# Celebrate

the acquisition of new state-of-the-art compound microscope at Herbarium SWGC, Grenfell Campus, MUN, to complement our similar dissecting scope.

# Celebrate

the acquisition of new microscopes at Bonne Bay Marine Station: a full complement of workhorse microscopes and an advanced flagship instrument.

# Celebrate

our new herbarium, now listed in **Index Herbariorum**, the international registry of accredited herbaria, code **SWGC**. The logo was designed by Henry Mann, founder and tireless worker in our Herbarium.

# celebrate

We these developments with a **Microscopy Workshop** open to all interested members of the community at no charge.

To register, please fill out & e-mail to: <cgilbert@grenfell.mun.ca>

Name:

e-mail:

- ☐ Morning session  
☐ Afternoon session

Please tick either box or both

1. Registration is **free**.
2. Registrations must be received by Sept 10.
3. Spaces are limited.
4. Registrants accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

# THE MAIL BAG

OR WHY THE PASSENGER PIGEONS ASSIGNED TO SERVE THE  
LAVISH CORPORATE AND EDITORIAL OFFICES OF OMPHALINA GET HERNIAS

Many thanks for the new OMPHALINA issue. Congrats and best regards.  
It was a pleasure to read the herbarium sleuthing piece. It portrays the “bread and butter” of what morphotaxonomists do, usually with good results, now and then down blind alleys.

Ron Petersen

An unusual find near New Melbourne beach just at the start of the D'Iberville Trail (on the left hand side). Seems to be *Mitula elegans*. Lots of it there.

Karen Herzberg, July 2, 2015.

Ed note: That would be the most likely identification. *M. lunulatospora*, not seen here to date, has spores shaped like a canoe, and *M. borealis*, found by your husband, fruits later. A look at the spores with a microscope could help differentiate these three. [See OMPHALINA 4(11):16-19, 2013, and 5(1):20-21, 2014].





# OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

PEOPLE OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR, THROUGH  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION  
PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS DIVISION  
WILDLIFE DIVISION  
FORESTRY AND AGRIFOODS AGENCY  
CENTER FOR FOREST SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

PEOPLE OF CANADA, THROUGH  
PARKS CANADA  
TERRA NOVA NATIONAL PARK  
GROS MORNE NATIONAL PARK

THE GROS MORNE CO-OPERATING ASSOCIATION  
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND  
ST. JOHN'S CAMPUS  
GRENFELL CAMPUS  
BONNE BAY MARINE STATION

TUCKAMORE LODGE

QUIDI VIDI BREWING COMPANY

RODRIGUES WINERY



# FORAY

## NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

2015 2015 2015  
2015 2015 2015  
2015 2015 2015  
2015 2015 2015  
2015 2015 2015  
2015 2015 2015  
2015 2015 2015  
The second decade

## GROS MORNE NATIONAL PARK

A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Headquarters: *Killdevil Camp, Lomond, NL*

**September 25-27, 2015**

### GUEST FACULTY

Oluna Ceska  
Nils Hallenberg  
Andy Methven  
Andy Miller  
Michele Piercey-Normore  
Roger Smith  
Greg Thorn

*Get to know our MUSHROOMS & LICHENS!*

*See our website for  
Registration Forms & Information:*

[<www.nlmushrooms.ca>](http://www.nlmushrooms.ca)



**MYCOBLITZ**

**Sir Richard Squires Park**

**Friday, Sep 25, 11:00AM SHARP**