LONG ISLAND MYCOLOGICAL CLUB

L.I. SPOREPRINT

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VOLUME 19, NUMBER 1, SPRING, 2011

FINDINGS AFIELD

During a year of diminished harvests, even the smallest thing is not overlooked, and while diminutive Inocybes are not uncommon, this particular species is among the tiniest and therefore aptly named *Inocybe minima.*

Inocybe minima

As can be seen in the above photo, where the scale is in gradations of one millimeter, its size varies from 5 to 14 mm., almost exactly as Peck described it in 1913 (8-12 mm). This particular group was found in October at Wertheim National Refuge in Shirley, a typical pine barrens habitat. The type specimen however was found in South Acton, Massachusetts, although Peck later collected it in NY State. No popular field guide contains this species, perhaps because it is easily overlooked and cannot be easily identified by field characters. Even such an old favorite as Kaufman's "The Gilled Mushrooms of Michigan"

(Continued on page 3)

THE SEASON'S BOUNTY

The memory of last year's good collecting days may outweigh the bad in our minds, but the official record shows that the paucity of fruiting forced us to cancel many forays. In fact, all June, July and August forays were cancelled except for the last two in July, which proved mediocre with a measly 8 species collected in Muttontown North on July 31st. In most of Suffolk county, there was zero rainfall from June 9 through July 10, and August was below average with only 2.2 inches. As a result of this lack during a crucial period, we collected very few of our favorite Summer and early Autumn favorites, such as boletes, chanterelles and black trumpets. Nor was this an isolated experience, most regional clubs also reporting a poor year of diminished harvests. For example, the Western Pennsylania's annual Lincoff foray ranked the ninth lowest of ten years, with only 74 species collected. A "dry, difficult collecting season" was lamented by the Connecticut group (COMA). In the northeast, only Maine seemed the exception, prevailing weather patterns having shifted rainfall in their direction, but reports from that state were not reflective of abundance.

CORTINARIUS CINNABARINUS GROUP

The season started with a rather short-lived mediocre Morel collection, and continued with a Spring Oyster *(Pleurotus populinus)* harvest that also failed to live up to expectations. We did better with the common Oyster later in the year, particularly at Wellwyn. Boletes generally were scarce, and *Boletus bicolor,* usually abundant and widespread, was almost absent although Peggy and I did unex-

(Continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Finally, Spring is here. It is hard to predict what sort of mushroom season this year will bring. The last few years have been erratic insofar as what species fruited or not. In years past, one could find fungi throughout the season but lately the weather has been fickle: dry, hot or both. If you think about it, there weren't as many oysters, blewits, chicken, hen, and sadly, boletes last year as in previous ones. Let us trust that the variability of nature will not brook a repeat.

I want to warn everyone about Lyme disease and ticks. Recently, my wrists, ankles and knees ached all the time and I attributed it to age creeping up on me. But it was determined to be Lyme disease. I am nearing the end of treatment and am symptom free. Everyone says that a bulls-eye or other rash are the signs of Lyme. While that may be true 70% of the time, I had no such signs. I was lucky that my doctor suspected Lyme and ordered a test. Usually, my clothes and shoes are sprayed with permethrin which is effective. (My guard must have been down while I worked in my yard or took a walk somewhere.) Make sure to always take precautions such as above and tuck pants into socks or, better still, wear Wellington type boots. Check yourself when you get home and wash clothing right away. The ticks are already out! Be careful.

There are always some mushroom names most of us forget over the winter. (I forget a lot.) So, if you haven't done so, now is a good time to pull out books and review names and pictures. This also can be done on the web.

Many of you have not attended a foray in awhile and some never have. I hope this year will be the time when you do. Give us a try!

To everyone: check your DEC permit to be sure it is up to date. Times passes quickly and I don't want members to get tickets.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our spring issue traditionally offers foray opportunities beyond our Long Island borders, and in these pages range from Pennsylvania to Michigan, and even across the Canadian border to Newfoundland. We hope that stalwart foragers will take the plunge and participate in some of these far-flung forays and report back to us on their adventures. We are currently making inquiries regarding the possibility of arranging for an overnight foray in the New Paltz area, with a stay at Suyuzivka, where last year's NEMF foray was held. If feasible, a notice will be sent to all members.

Our website continues to expand, thanks to our webmaster Dale, and visitors will now note the presence of a new tab, "Resources". Clicking on this will bring up two topics: Lyme disease information, including tick removal, and a NYS DEC permit application. If you do not have a DEC State Land Access Permit, download the application and follow mailing instructions. If you do possess a permit, check to make sure that the date is valid, and if not, apply for a new one. We are fortunate that DEC regulations have been changed to permit personal mushroom picking, but a permit remains necessary for land access.

MATERIAL FOR THE SUMMER, 2011 EDITION SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY JUNE 1ST

(Submissions may be forwarded by email in any format or typed.)

(All unsigned articles authored by editor.)

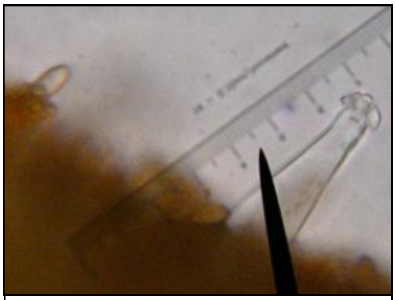
NEW LONG ISLAND SPECIES 2010

Amanita submaculata
Amanita williamsiae nom. prov.
Boletus subgraveolens
Chroogomphus rutilus
Clitocybe hydrogramma
Conocybe kuehneriana grp.
Cortinarius cinnabarinus complex
Cortinarius pseudosalor-*
Chalciporus piperatoides
Cystoderma cinnabarinum
Hygrocybe coccineus
Hygrocybe nitidus
Inocybe minima
Inocybe subtomentosa-*
Lactarius hepaticus
Lactarius proximellus
Lepiota atrodisca
Marasmius strictipes
Mycena maculata-*
Mycena minutula (olida v. Americana)
Oxyporus populinus
Panaeolus papillonaceus=P.campanulatus
Panaeolus subbalteatus
Phlebia tremellosa
Psilocybe cf. subaeruginascens
Rhizopogon vulgaris-*
Rhodocollybia unakensis
Russula paludosa
Sarcodon ustale -*
Suillus tomentosus
Tricholoma marquettense
Tricholoma zelleri
Xeromphalina tenuipes-*

(*Found and identified by Aaron Norarevian)

FINDINGS AFIELD *(Continued from page 1)*

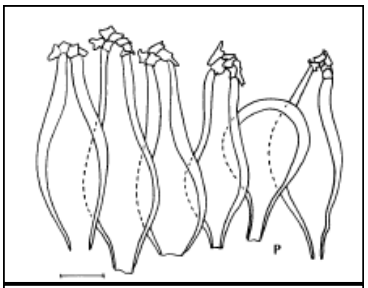
ignores it. Judging from its infrequent occurrence in NEMF's cumulative collections list (once in 32 years) and the NJMA checklist (once in 23 years) it must be considered a rare mushroom. It is entirely absent from the Annual Coma Foray List of 31 years and the NAMA collection database. However, the University of Tennessee herbarium does contain 5 collections from 1934 to 1953, four of them by the famous mycologist LR Hesler. And the Systematic Mycology Database of the US Dept. of Agriculture has one collection from Maryland dated June, 1974. Another is found in the NY Botanical Garden's Ray Fatto collection from New Jersey, Sept. 1994 and is somewhat larger (varying from 1.5 to 2.5 cm.) than both the type and Grund & Stuntz' studies of Canadian specimens.



Microphoto, spore & cystidium

The cap of my specimen was umbonate, dull reddish brown and somewhat darker on the disc; appressed-fibrillose becoming lacerate at the margin. (Peck places it in section Lacerae.) The stipe was pallid, dingy cream in color, not longer than 2 cm. and expanding slightly toward the base where it could reach almost 4 mm in width, wider than reported. Gills were white -edged, dull brown, adnate, subdistant (28 reaching the stipe) with several layers of lamellulae. Odor faint, nonspecific..

Microscopically, the spores were smooth, ellipsoid, measuring about 9 X 5. Both pleurocystidea and cheilocystidea were present and lageniform or bottle shaped (see microphotograph above) although the cheilocystidea were somewhat larger. They were thick walled, with apical crystalloid ornamentation. The drawing from Grund & Stuntz below more clearly shows their shape.



Cystidea drawing from Grund & Stuntz.

In their study, "Nova Scotian Inocybes VIII", Grund & Stuntz observe that *Inocybe minima* belongs to series Lacerae, stirps Minima, and note that two others in this group resemble it: *I. microsperma* and *I. infelix*. However, the former has much shorter spores and cystidea, while the latter has much larger spores. This rules out these alternative identifications, and leaves us with *Inocybe minima* as the remaining possibility. Although I had some reservations because of the somewhat wider stipe base of our specimen, Grund & Stuntz's photograph of *I. minima* does show almost a bulbous base despite their written description of an "equal" stipe. It is also unique because of its small size.

Inocybe minima is hereby added to our LI Species checklist.

Poisoning

(Continued from page 1)

pectedly encounter a treasure trove of them in an East Setauket schoolyard. Chanterelle season is in August, and the dryness of that month caused them to remain in hiding.

September finally brought enough rain to make a difference, and the 38 species collected Sept. 11th in Prosser and Cathedral Pines were a welcome sight, despite less than normal numbers. By October, things seemed almost normal, with species totals climbing, although favored edibles like Hen-of-the-Woods and Sulfur Shelf were not available in their usual numbers; the same was true for Honey mushrooms. Gypsies were in good supply at Peconic Hills, and seemed to enjoy a longer than expected fruiting season. As usual, we ended the season with Tricholomas and Hygrophorus in the Pine Barrens, but there were definitely less of the Yellow Knight (*Tricholoma equestre/flavovirens)* than desired.

It seems that there is little relation between the number of new species identified and the general fruitfulness of the harvest, and the list of new species added to the list can be seen on page 3. Of the 33 new species, Oxyporus and Sarcodon represent new genera, while others are overlooked *(Phlebia tremellosa)* or inconspicuous species *(Mycena minutula). Panaeolus pappilonaceus* is a newly revived name for *P. campanulatus, P. sphincterinus* and *P. retirugis* which are now all considered synonyms by some authorities, despite morphological differences. Some are the result of visiting unique habitats, such as boggy areas in the pine barrens, which have yielded such goodies as *Hygrocybe coccineus* and *Tricholoma zelleri.* As the latter has been found in areas also reportedly producing *Tricholoma magnivelere,* the American Matsutake, we should be on the outlook for this gem.

If one had to pick the best find of the year, my vote would go to *Amanita williamsiae*, a rarely encountered species with only a provisional name. Amanita expert Rod Tulloss has found it only once, and only a handful of additional collections of this Atlantic coastal plain resident exist.

With these additions, our species total is now approximately 860.

Clitocybe hydrogramma

Amanita williamsiae nom. prov.

Phlebia tremellosa

Conocybe kuehneriana grp.

Lactarius hepaticus

Paneolus subbalteatus

Gleanings

■ **RADIOACTIVE BOARS IN GERMANY:** As we are aware, boars enjoy feeding upon truffles, which is why they are employed by truffle hunters to find them. But a problem has now arisen with radioactivity in the flesh of boars hunted in Germany. Apparently, the radioactive fallout associated with the 1986 Chernobyl disaster has migrated further underground, where it has contaminated the truffle species (not favored by humans) that the boars feed upon. It seems that only a small percentage of the animals have levels of radioactivity beyond that allowed for human consumption, and the German government pays hunters for the discarded meat, a sum which amounted to over a half-million dollars last year. (*Radioactive boars on the rise in Germany, AP writer V. Schmitt-Roschmann, reprinted in "The NA Truffler, Jan. 2011, Vol. 30, Issue 1)*

■**WOW! WE'RE HOT— BLAME THE FUNGI:** By constructing a mathematical model describing the relationship between organismal competence and body temperature which took into account many factors including metabolic rate, body mass, fungal thermal tolerance, researchers determined that 36.7°C (98° F) is the optimal temperature to guard against fungal infection while not being overly costly metabolically. This comes on the heels of findings that the rise of mammals (and the demise of dinosaurs) came during a cold, dark period of fungal expansion. It helps explain why cold-blooded creatures (such as frogs) are dangerously prone to fungal infection and we usually are not. So fungi may be responsible for both the rise of the mammals and the rise in their body temperature. If that temperature drops, such as bats in hibernation, then susceptibility to fungal infection increases, viz. white nose syndrome. *(Mammalian Endothermy Optimally Restricts Fungi and Metabolic Costs, A. Bergmana & A. Casadevall, mBio, J.Amer.Soc. Microbiology*, open source at http://mbio.asm.org/content/1/5/e00212-10.full.html)[Suggested by Bob Cresko]

■ **THREE IS NOT A CROWD:** The symbiosis between fungi and fungus farming ants has progressed from a duo to a trio. Traditionally described as involving only leaf-cutter ants and domesticated fungi, usually of *Leucoagaricus,* researchers at the University of Costa Rica have demonstrated that at least eight species of ants live with bacteria, particularly of the genus Klebsiella, that capture atmospheric nitrogen that the ants can metabolize and which is essential for their nutrition. (Both the leaves the ants collect and the fungi that they grew are poor in nitrogen.) If we also consider previous research that showed the presence of bacteria harbored in the ants bodies that secreted antibiotics to combat invasive fungi, the triumvirate becomes a quartet. *(Symbiotic Nitrogen Fixation in the Fungus Gardens of Leaf-Cutter Ants Adrián A. Pinto-Tomás et al, Science, 326, 11/20/09)*

■ **SLIME MOLDS ARE PRUDENT PARENTS:** Researchers in Rice University have concluded that the slime mold (aka social amoeba) *Dictyostelium dicoideum* practices a primitive form of agriculture akin to marine snails that farm intertidal fungi. (See LI Sporeprint, Summer, '04)Thirteen out of 35 wild strains were shown to stop harvesting bacteria before depleting them and incorporating bacteria into their fruiting bodies. The dispersing spores then carry the bacteria with them to grow a new crop, which provides a survival advantage if local bacteria are lacking. Apparently this was only discovered because the species was collected from the wild; *D.mucorides,* the commonly used lab organism is not a farmer. *(Primitive agriculture in a social amoeba. Debra Brock et al, Nature, 469, Jan. 20, 2011, pp.393-396.)*

(*Compiled by editor from indicated sources.)*

MUSHROOM APP UPDATE

Roger Phillips mushroom app for iPod ("Wild Mushrooms of NA & Europe")was previously reviewed favorably in these pages. It has now become available for Android smart phones at a price of UK£ 2.50 (about $4), twice the price I paid for the iPod app last year, but still a bargain. It seems to be available for download from several sources if you google "Roger Phillips mushroom app android".

(*Suggested by Roger Eklund.)*

NEXT ISSUE

MUSHROOM MUTUALISMS CONT'D: 2ND INSTALLMENT OF BEN WOLFE'S ESSAY ON THE EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT OF SYMBIOSIS IN THE GENUS AMANITA.

ALSO COMING:

REVIEW OF THE DIGITAL UPDATE OF THE AUDUBON SOCIETY (GARY LINCOFF) GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN MUSHROOMS FOR IPOD AND ANDROID SMARTPHONES.

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT OUR FORAYS

Inasmuch as mushroom fruiting patterns are unpredictable, ***our Foray Schedule must be considered flexible: tentative & subject to change.*** Last year, 10 forays were cancelled for lack of fungi, and this number is not that unusual; some cancellations are almost certain to occur this year. In addition to cancellations, **changes may occur** with some forays being moved to a more likely spot, based on reports from the assigned walk leaders.

For these reasons, it is important to check your email on the Friday before a foray for notification of any changes. Only in the event of change will an email be sent. Those members who do not have email access should telephone someone of their acquaintance who does, the walk leader or us. (Our membership list contains telephone numbers and email for all members.)

Assigned leaders are reminded to try to reconnoiter the area and report back to us regarding conditions. We depend upon these reports to decide whether or not to hold a foray. On days when no forays are scheduled in May and June, usually slow times**, let us know if you come across a fruitful area, and we can get the word out to call for an impromptu foray.** The same applies if a foray is cancelled, but you are aware of a productive area.

Our annual picnic, always a great success, is scheduled for Sept. 17, to avoid the summer heat. . All participants are asked to bring a dish to share; LIMC will provide a hero lunch, as well as beverages and snacks.

DUELING MUSHROOM FORAYS

Asheville Mushroom Club
Fall Foray with Gary Lincoff
September 9-11, 2011
YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly
Black Mountain NC

Hosted by the Asheville Mushroom Club, activities begin 1:30 PM Friday and conclude around noon Sunday at the Blue Ridge Assembly conference center. Assisting Gary will be Dr. Coleman McCleneghan and others to be announced. Varied accommodations including hotel style rooms are priced from $234 to $256 for a full stay. The area holds the NAMA foray record of 495 species. Room photos and other information is available at the club website:

http://www.ashevillemushroomclub.com/

FORAY NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR 2011
Sept 9-11

The Nova Scotia Mycological Society once again hosts this northernmost foray in Terra Nova National Park at the Terra Nova Hospitality Home & Conference Centre with seating for 75 people, so space is limited. Details are not yet available, but last year's prices varied from $215 pp. double occupancy to $330 for a single. Tentative guest faculty includes Greg Marley, Todd Osmundsen, Leif Ryvarden, and others.

Information will be updated in the Spring and can be accessed at:http://www.nlmushrooms.ca/ or for more information, send email to:

foray@nlmushrooms.ca

NATIONAL MOREL MUSHROOM FESTIVAL
BOYNE CITY, MICHIGAN

Festivities this year run from Thursday May 12– to Saturday May 15 and includes such activities as musical performances, car races, crafts shows, etc. On Friday there is morel seminar followed by a "guided" morel hunt at 4:30 PM which has a $10 registration fee. At 7:30 AM on Saturday registration ($18)begins for the National Morel Hunt, with winners to be announced at 3 PM. A private land hunt at 4:30 PM is limited to 40 participants and requires advance registration with a $25 fee.

For detailed information on activities, events, local lodging and registration forms access their website:

http://www.morelfest.com/

Corrigendum

Thanks to Tony Wright, former editor of Mycelium, for correcting my usage of Fibropileus (LI Sporeprint, Winter, 2010, page 6, "Fibropileus abortivum") in place of ***Fibropilus***, a new genus name used instead of the traditional Entoloma in the case of the species abortivum. Apparently this usage has been adopted by the Quebec contingent, relying on the works of Noordeloss and Largent.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 2009

Balance from 2009			$3054.95
Membership Dues	825.00		
Interest	.18		
Raffle	14.00		
Sub-Total		82918	$3884.13
Disbursements			
NEMF Dues (2010 &2011)	60.00		
Sam Ristich Fund	75.00		
Newsletter expenses (includes printing, mailing, supplies, & misc. notices)	427.33		
Treasurer's expenses(raffle, postage, supplies, sale items)	159.34		
Luncheon ,Picnic & Mushroom Day	198.99		
Sub-Total		-920.66	
Balance as of Dec. 31, 2010			$2963.47

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Horman,
Treasurer

2011 DR. RICHARD HOMOLA MEMORIAL NAMA FORAY IS ALMOST FULL!

SPACES WERE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE FORAY AS OF MID-MARCH BUT ONLY 2 ASCO WORKSHOP SPOTS REMAIN.
ACT QUICKLY IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND– CALL REGISTRAR BECKY PLISCHKE 724-834-2358 OR EMAIL HER AT MORELBP@AOL.COM
APPLICATION WEBSITE : http://namyco.org/events/index2011-0.html LINK ALSO ON OUR WEB PAGE

MOREL MADNESS WEEKEND

The Western PA Mushroom Club is again hosting their public morel foray on April 30- May 1st , rain or shine, in Mingo Creek Park, located in the southwest corner of PA near the Ohio and WV borders. The event is open to non-members for a fee of $5; $10 if you wish to camp there for the next day's hunt. One must pre-register with the Park, even if not camping: Call Christine (724-228-6867) .

Check-in and registration will be from 11 AM to 12 at roadside near the "Henry House", and after an instructional talk and slide show, morel hunting will commence at 1 PM, on your own or with a group leader. Collection show-time and I.D. at 4 PM and evening slide show at 8:30 PM. On May 1st, morning morel hunt at 9 AM after breakfast at 8 AM.

LIMC members are welcome. For driving directions, access their website at
http://www.wpamushroomclub.org/directions

2011 SAM RISTICH NEMF FORAY AUG. 11-14 PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE, PAUL SMITH'S NY

This Adirondack foray is hosted by four upstate NY clubs in Adirondack Park on St. Regis Lake, with rates of $325 to $410 for various occupancies for a Thurs-Sun. stay. Chief mycologist will be Timothy Baroni, assisted by Roy Halling, Gary Lincoff, Kathy Hodge, Andy Methven, and others. Refunds subject to $30 cancellation fee. A variety of lodging is available, from dorms with shared bathroom, and suites with individual rooms and kitchen– all on a first-come basis**. No doubles with en suite bath are left.** Motels & campgrounds are nearby for commuters, whose fee is $250 for a full Thur-Sunday stay.

For further information email registrar Peter Molesky at pcmolesky@aol.com or call Peter at (315) 339-3515
or visit www.nemf.org/files/2011/2011.html

IN THIS ISSUE

"In the living and the non-living world, we see a growth of order, starting from the feature-less and uniform gas of the early universe and producing the magnificent diversity we see in the sky and in the rain forest."

Freeman Dyson, NY Review of Books, March 10, 2011

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