

A new Worcestershire Fungus - *Ionomidotis fulvotagens*

John Bingham

Ionomidotis fulvotagens (Berk. & M.A. Curtis) Cash; Vulnerable (Red Data List, Ing 1992); removed from list (Red Data List, Evans et al. 2006)

This fungus was found on 5th January 2016 in Ribbesford Woods, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire. It caught my eye because of the colour; a deep green, very unusual for an ascomycete (cup) fungus (01, 02). Found growing on a dead, but still upright hazel stem that was part of a larger coppice stool. The location was in a damp stream valley: perhaps the wet season and dampness of the site caused fruiting. The largest cup was 10mm across, the smaller group of three about 4mm each.



01. *Ionomidotis fulvotagens* from Ribbesford Woods. John Bingham



02. *Ionomidotis fulvotagens* from Ribbesford Woods. John Bingham

The specimen proved difficult to identify and was sent to Kew Mycology department. Thanks to Martyn Ainsworth at Kew who identified it. He commented '*seems to have been seen increasingly frequently in recent years (most of our British collections in Kew are from the 21st century). It can be found on a range of broadleaved trees (and gorse) and has also been recorded on a conifer. The material releases a red-brown pigment in KOH.*' It is now accessioned in Kew as K(M)202886.

There are 26 records on the British Mycological Society (BMS) Fungal Database mostly in Scotland or in the south-east of England. The only record for the Midlands appears to be made on 19/05/2013 at Daneshill Lakes, Nottinghamshire by V Hodge.

On 3rd February 2016 on a Wyre Forest Study Group meeting Nicki Farmer handed me another blackish ascomycete that she had found on a fallen twig near to Dowles Brook. At the time we were just

over the border on the on the Shropshire side. This also appears to be *Ionomidotis fulvotagens*. Another new county record if confirmed!

Reference

British Mycological Society (BMS). The checklist of fungi of the British Isles. Online at <http://www.fieldmycology.net/GBCHKLST/gbchklst.asp>

Images

01. *Ionomidotis fulvotagens* from Ribbesford Woods. John Bingham.

02. *Ionomidotis fulvotagens* from Ribbesford Woods. John Bingham.