

**A new fungus for Worcestershire.**  
***Caloscypha fulgens* (Pers.) Boud.**  
**Red Data List - Vulnerable/D2 (BMS 2006)**

John Bingham

On a field meeting on 1st March 2017 with the Wyre Forest Study Group to Ribbesford Woods, Worcestershire I was called over to see a small yellow fungus growing on the ground and discovered by Dave Smith. At the time I was unable to identify the species but clearly it was an Ascomycete (cup fungus). It was found in broadleaf woodland with birch *Betula* and Hazel *Corylus avellana*, growing on soil with moss with a mix of general plant debris. Several small fruit bodies c.8mm across were present but several appeared to be damaged by slugs. I took a small specimen back to check and identified it as *Caloscypha fulgens*, a new species for Worcestershire.



01. *Caloscypha fulgens* Ribbesford Wood 01 March 2017. John Bingham.



02. *Caloscypha fulgens* Ribbesford Wood 01 March 2017. John Bingham

It appears to be a North America 'snow melt' fungus recently introduced into Britain, first recorded in 1998 in Suffolk but now spreading. There are 21 records (not sites) on the British Mycological Society GB Checklist of Fungi. The Conservation Status is listed as Vulnerable / D2 (Red Data List, Evans et al. 2006) (BMS). In the USA it is a pathogen and infects dormant seeds of Sitka spruce *Picea sitchensis*. It is stated in literature that it is often associated with Ash *Fraxinus* and/or *Betula*.

It should be easy to identify partly because it fruits early in the year from late winter/early spring and being a vivid yellow with green or bluish staining that occurs upon injury or with age that is unique within the Pezizales order.

**Reference**

BMS Checklist.

<http://www.fieldmycology.net/GBCHKLST/gbsyns.asp?intGBNum=3517>.

Images

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