

**Chickens on a Poplar: *Laetiporus sulphureus* on *Populus × canescens*.**

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Chicken of the Woods *Laetiporus sulphureus* is a relatively common and widespread saprotrophic fungus which causes brown rot on a range of hardwood trees. In the UK they are recorded mostly on oak and other hardwood trees, such as beech, chestnut, and cherry, but it does occur occasionally on yew trees. *L. sulphureus* is reported as colonizing both dead and living trees where it can act as a weak pathogen on living trees. It occurs throughout Europe and North America.

The occurrence I report here is on a less common host tree, Grey Poplar *Populus × canescens*, the hybrid of *P. alba* (White poplar) and *P. tremula* (Common Aspen). Grey poplars can be particularly vigorous and achieve much greater size and vigour than either of the two parents. However, the tree on which I found this marvellous show of Chickens was but a shadow of its former self having had its major limbs cut back some time ago, presumably in an attempt to keep it alive and safe.

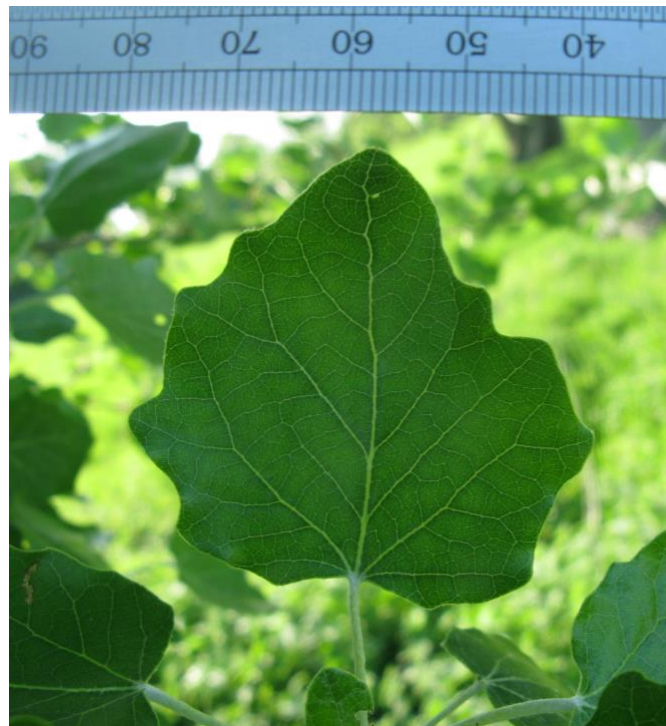
The tree was still alive, with a region of dense fresh branches to one side of the trunk. 01 shows the whole tree with many chickens feeding upon it, there were more round the back. 02 is a close up of the fungus growing from around the edge of a region of brown rotted timber where a limb had been shed. 03 is a photograph of a leaf used to identify the tree species. The photographs were taken on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016 on the land of Chapel Farm, Netherton, near Elmley Castle in the south of Worcestershire; Grid Reference SO 997 426.



02. Poplar and chickens Netherton. Graham Martin.



01. Poplar and chickens Netherton. Graham Martin.



03. Leaf from Grey Poplar with chickens. Netherton. Graham Martin

**Images**

- 01. Poplar and chickens Netherton. Graham Martin.
- 02. Poplar and chickens Netherton. Graham Martin.
- 03. Leaf from Grey Poplar with chickens. Netherton. Graham Martin