

## Orchard Tooth *Sarcodontia crocea* on a street tree in Broadway, Worcestershire

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*Sarcodontia crocea* known as Orchard Tooth, Apple Tooth or Orchard Toothcrust is a rare fungus. It was first placed on a Biodiversity Action Plan list in 2007. The reasons for its listing are its national rarity (apparently restricted to England) and decline. It entered the BAP list as a result of making Traditional Orchards a BAP priority habitat. As its common name implies the species is associated with apple trees; apparently it is found only on apple trees. It is associated particularly with ancient specimens in which the heart wood has started to die. It is a saprotrophic fungus and is not responsible for the decline of the tree. The fruiting bodies form lumps often pushing up from behind the bark in narrow fissures.

A good specimen of the fungus, first reported by Dr Paul Smith of Botanical Investigations, Broadway has occurred in Worcestershire in Broadway in the south east of the county. This specimen is not, however, associated with a Traditional Orchard. Rather it was growing on a large and apparently healthy apple tree on the road verge outside the Public Library on Leamington Road, (Grid Ref. SP 095 375). 01 shows the specimen photographed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The fungus was awkward to photograph as it was above head height and showing from a fissure along the length of a limb. It was not protruding and the characteristic small tooth-like structures, which give rise to its common name, could not be readily seen. The host tree is much older than the library building and may have been a garden tree. It is now a street tree growing on the verge between the pavement and the library building.



01. Orchard Tooth *Sarcodontia crocea* on as apple tree in Broadway, Worcestershire

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