

A special *Cortinarius*



Photo: Adolf Ceska

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Cortinarius ceskae

How would you like a mushroom named after you? Well, SVIMS members Oluna and Adolf Ceska have added to their already impressive mycological resume with the addition of a species they discovered on Observatory Hill and which now bears their name. The Index Fungorum describes it thus:

"Pileus 20-30mm, at first conical, later almost plane, often with an acute umbo, reddish to rusty brown with an olive tone. Lamellae moderately spaced, cinnamon brown when old. Stipe 30-50mm long, 4-5mm thick at apex, cylindrical, fibrillose-rusty fibrils over yellowish background, base of the stipe yellow, at least when young. Context ochre. Odor in lamellae radish-like. UV fluorescence: pileus bright yellow on drying, lamellae bright yellow but patchy, stipe bright yellow, flesh in stipe pale yellow."

The Global Fungal Red List Initiative

<http://iucn.ekoo.se/en/iucn/welcome>

Fungi - overlooked in international conservation initiatives

The aim of the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is to convey the urgency of conservation issues to the public and policy makers, as well as help the international community reduce species decline and extinction. The IUCN Red List is widely recognized as the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of animal, fungal and plant species, and it has a large impact on the setting of priorities in nature conservation.

However, a major limitation of the present global Red List is that fungi, despite being one of the most diverse and important groups of organisms, are basically absent from the list as no initiative to evaluate fungi has yet been made. Of the almost 20,000 globally red listed species, all but three are animals and plants. The three fungi consist of two lichens and one mushroom. This gross underrepresentation of fungi on the global Red List greatly hinders the inclusion of fungi in conservation discussions, access to funding programs, policy decisions, and conservation action.

Species of fungi are threatened by habitat loss, loss of symbiotic hosts, pollution, over exploitation, and climate change, but the vast majority of fungal species has not been assessed. This initiative aims to facilitate and to coordinate a concerted effort by the global mycological community to get at least 300 species of threatened fungi assessed and classified as globally red listed. In doing so, the initiative will raise the awareness of fungal conservation among mycologists, the conservation community, policy makers and the general public.

The purpose of this website is to develop a list of fungal candidate species that are likely to be globally red listed when evaluated, and to engage the global mycological community in this procedure.

Hopefully, the initiative will attract, educate, engage, and facilitate activities by both professional and amateur mycologists in fungal conservation. The submitted data will be fully accessible on the website, and the mycological community will be encouraged to add to and/or comment on the information to facilitate data accuracy and completeness.

FUNGIFAMA DEADLINE

Please submit your stories, announcements, and photos by **Oct 1** for the next edition of the newsletter.

jillstanjs@hotmail.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW
MEMBERS!

Struan Maclean

Jeff Laird

Carl Berrow



UPCOMING EVENTS

SVIMS meeting—Sept. 3, 2015

Pacific Forestry Building, 7pm

Cannibals

Bryce Kendrick

\$2 admission, children free.

<http://salmonmushroomfestival.com/>

SVIMS meeting—Oct. 1, 2015

Pacific Forestry Building, 7pm

Edible Mushrooms

Bill Jones, Deerholme Farm

Wild Mushrooms: An Introductory Course

Oct. 14, 2015

Session 1, Shannon Berch

Swan Lake Nature Centre

\$20 for SVIMS members - swanlake.bc.ca

SVIMS meeting—Nov. 5, 2015

Pacific Forestry Building, 7pm

Cultivating Mushrooms

Scott Henderson, "The Mushroom Man"

Oct. 23-25, 2015

Forestry Research Centre

Lake Cowichan

NAMA Blue Ridge Foray

Sept. 24-27, 2015

Black Mountain, North Carolina

namyco.org

Swan Lake Mushroom Show

Nov. 1, 2015

Swan Lake Nature Centre

10am-4pm by donation

Swanlake.bc.ca

Lake Cowichan Salmon and Mushroom Festival

Sat, Sep 26, to Sun, Sep 27, 2015

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Oregon Truffle Festival

3 weekends in January 2016

Tickets on sale Sept 1

Oregontrufflefestival.com

In The News

Researchers Study Cancer-Fighting Properties in Mushrooms

<http://www.unbc.ca/releases/37466/researchers-study-cancer-fighting-properties-mushrooms>

Prince George, BC – An interdisciplinary team of UNBC researchers will further their study of local mushrooms as a potential cancer treatment thanks to a contract research agreement from Genome British Columbia. The \$52,000 provided from the Genome British Columbia Strategic Opportunities Fund will allow Biochemistry Professor Dr. Chow Lee and his fellow researchers to continue to search for and catalogue the properties of local mushroom species. UNBC is providing matching funds, bringing the total to more than \$104,172.

As part of the project, researchers harvest a variety of wild mushroom species found all across Northern BC and then use different solvents to extract specific mushroom compounds and generate what are known as fractions. Those fractions are then tested to see if they have any beneficial cancer-fighting properties.

The researchers are looking for mushroom fractions that can either block cancer cell growth on their own or can help stimulate the immune system and act as a catalyst to help the body fight the cancer.

The project has been in development for more than two years and brings together researchers from UNBC's Chemistry and Biochemistry programs who have expertise in cancer and the Ecosystem Science and Management Program who have expertise in the biology and ecology of wild mushrooms and native trees.

Fungi in the Open Tree of Life

<http://2015.botanyconference.org/engine/search/index.php?func=detail&aid=845>

Gazis, Romina [1], Smith, Stephen [2], Cranston, Karen [3], Brown, Joseph [2], Rees, Jonathan [3], Hibbett, David [1].

1 - Clark University, Biology, 950 Main Street, Worcester, MA, 01610, USA

2 - University of Michigan, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 830 North University Ave., Ann Arbor, MI, 48109, USA

3 - Duke University, National Evolutionary Synthesis Center, 2024 W. Main St , A200, Durham, NC, 27705, USA

Constructing a phylogenetic tree with all fungal species represents a Holy Grail of mycology. To this end, fungal systematists have gathered and analyzed morphological and molecular data for hundreds of thousands of species, yielding phylogenetic trees that have been reported in thousands of publications. However, these research products have never been combined into an accessible, comprehensive fungal tree of life, and complete phylogenies for large clades are rare. Challenges to constructing comprehensive phylogenies include computational requirements and low overlap in the molecular markers used among phylogenetic studies. In the absence of phylogenetic knowledge, taxonomic information can provide a species hierarchy that can be combined with trees based on molecular analyses. By using taxonomy as backbone and resolv-

ing shallower relationships among taxa with phylogenies, we can detect areas in the tree where taxonomic revisions are needed. As part of the Open Tree of Life project, we are working toward a draft of the most comprehensive fungal tree to date, by combining phylogenetic and taxonomic sources. While this tree is far from complete, it is an important first step to a comprehensive fungal tree of life that can be updated and will provide a foundation for comparative mycology.

Open Tree of Life project

<http://blog.opentreeoflife.org/>

Easter truffles

From Ken and Ginette Carter, Sunshine Coast Mushroom Society

“A small addition to the rapidly expanding truffle universe for Easter... Last weekend Ginette and I visited old friends who introduced us many years ago to an Easter tradition of doing Ukrainian eggs. Most of the family adhere to classic egg designs, and Ginette is very good at those, but I tend to do things out of my imagination, designs that happen to fit the moment. This year there was a certain truffle buzz around the cabin, so Ginette did a rendering of a Douglas-fir, and I did my best to catch Dexter's enthusiasm under what I suppose could also be a Douglas-fir, complete with truffles clinging to the root system...with a little imagination!”



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THE LAST WORD

After our incredibly dry summer, wasn't it wonderful to see the rain? There was jubilation online on all the Pacific Northwest Mushrooming sites and expectations for everyone's favorite edible to appear imminently. When the chanterelles started to pop up in Oregon and Washington, questions came fast and furious. Where, what elevation, how's the picking at the coast, anyone want to go out looking with me? Such is the excitement of those to whom fall means getting out into the forests and feasting off (or selling) nature's bounty. But mushrooms offer so much more...to the photographer, to the naturalist, to the scientist, to the lover of the strange and unusual. This is where SVIMS comes in. There is so much to learn about the fascinating fungi world, and where better to do that than to join a group who can help you do just that?

As our season on Vancouver Island begins, keep safe out there and enjoy!

Jill