

Wood-Decaying Fungi from Gangapur Tehsil Aurangabad District (M.S.) India

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Abstract

In every year an enormous amount of wood and wood products are destroyed by decay, rot, and decomposition. Decay refers to the process by which tissues of dead organisms break down into simpler forms of matter. Such a breakdown is essential for new growth and development because it is basic for recycling limited chemical components and freeing up limited physical space in the environment. Wood decaying fungi are the main organisms responsible for wood decay. A wide range of macro-fungi occurs on wood using various constituents for their metabolism. In the present investigation, sixty-two wood-decaying macro-fungi were collected from Gangapur Tehsil, Aurangabad district from that sixteen specimens was identified according to the macro-morphological and microscopic character which belongs to fifteen genera and sixteen species. Based on observations *Auricularia mesenterica*, *Auricularia nigricans*, *Corioloopsis brunneoleuca*, *Daldinia concentrica*, *Flavodon flavus*, *Pseudofavolus tenuis*, *Schizophyllum commune*, and *Truncospora tephropora* are dominating macrofungi while *Cyathus striatus*, *Funalia leonina*, *Ganoderma chalconum*, *Gymnopilus pampeanus*, *Navisporus floccosus*, *Phellinus allardii*, *Psathyrella* sp.1 and *Tremella mesenterica* were rarely observed macro-fungi.

INTRODUCTION:

Wood decaying fungi are the important decomposer of the ecosystem that can decompose wood and cause it to rot. They decompose the wood, plant litter, and coarse woody debris and play a primary important role in degrading organic material in the ecosystem. 75% of wood-decaying fungi play a significant role in wood decay belongs to Polyporaceae and are responsible for producing 90% decay to economically important timbers (Overholts, 1953). Fungi are the most diverse organisms, but due to inadequate or less research, only 5% of species are identified (Hawksworth, 1991).

The first Indian record of wood-decaying fungi could trace back to the work of (Klotzsch, 1832) in

his paper on Indian Polyporaceae. Later special efforts were taken by (Sharma, 2000) to publish the book entitled "Genera of Indian Polypores", described an idea about the diversity of Polypores from India. 629 specimens from the Western Ghats of Maharashtra were collected and studied (Ranadive et al., 2011). Preliminary study of some wood-rotting fungi of Beed district, Maharashtra (Mali, 2019). 400 specimens of Aphyllophorales were studied belonging to 34 genera and 47 species were identified from Latur district, Maharashtra (Chouse & Mali, 2020). Recently 12 specimens were identified from the Vaijapur taluka Aurangabad district, belongs to 11 genera and 12 species (Gore & Mali, 2021).

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The survey and collection of wood-decaying fungi were done from September 2016 to November 2019, 20-25 days after heavy rainfall from different localities of the Gangapur Tehsil, Aurangabad district. The specimens of basidiome were photographed in the field and all important morphological characters were recorded according to hosts name, locality, collection number, collection date, color, pilear surface, hymenial surface, and the dimension of basidiome. All specimens were identified according to macroscopic and microscopic characteristics with respect to appropriate literature (Gilbertson & Ryvarden 1986; Nunez & Ryvarden 2000). As per international mycological herbarium guidelines, sun-dried specimens were kept in the brown paper packet. The freehand thin section cutting of basidiome done with the help of sharp razor blades, stained and studied in 5% KOH, Lacto phenol, and Melzer's reagent, and microscopic observations were made under 40X and 100X Magnification under a compound light microscope in a laboratory.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

In the present study, 16 species of wood-decaying fungi were identified according to the macroscopic and microscopic character (plate 1), collected from Gangapur Tehsil, Aurangabad district (M.S.) India. Have been summarized below.

Auricularia mesenterica (Dicks.) Pers.

Basidiome resupinate to effused reflex, pileate, 2–8 × 1.5–4 cm, up to 0.2 cm thick, ear-shaped, loosely laterally attached, elastic, gelatinous, occurs in imbricate clusters extending over an area of several centimeters. Sterile surface, hairy, yellowish-brown to greyish brown bands. Hymenium smooth to slightly wrinkled, bluish to purplish brown with a whitish bloom. Hairs thick-walled, up to 4 mm long. Basidia cylindrical, hyaline, 3-septate, 45–60 × 5–5.5 µm with 1–3 sterigmata lateral, 3–12 × 1–10 µm. Spores hyaline, reniform to allantoids, 12–13.5 × 5–5.5 µm, guttulate.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Asegaon, 06/10/2016, on wood log *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Delile, 539m, 19°53'19"N 75°11'14"E, GVU/MVP-477.

Auricularia nigricans (Sw.) Birkebak, Looney & Sánchez-García.

Basidiome initially resupinate to pileate 2.5–4.6 × 1.5–3.1 cm, up to 0.3 cm thick, loosely attached,

laterally and sometimes by a very short stalk, elastic, gelatinous. Sterile surface, hairy, silky, dark yellowish-brown to dark brown with greyish brown bands. Hymenium smooth or wrinkled, pale brown to dark brown to blackish-brown with a whitish bloom. Hairs thick-walled, up to 3 mm long. Basidia cylindrical, hyaline, 3-septate, 46–60 × 4–5.5 µm with 1–3 lateral sterigmata. Sterigmata 9–15 × 1.5–11 µm. Spores, hyaline, reniform to allantoid, 13–15 × 4–5.5 µm, guttulate.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Asegaon, 06/10/2016, on wood log *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Delile, 539m, 19°53'19"N 75°11'14"E, GVU/MVP-481.

Cyathus striatus (Huds.) Willd.

Basidiome small-sized, flower-port shaped, 0.7 – 1.4 cm tall, 0.6 – 0.8 cm wide, brown and shaggy on the outside, grayish brown, and vertically striate or fluted on inside. Peridioles 8–15 grey, about 2 mm diam., free within the peridium and immersed in mucilage. Spores 15–20 × 8–10.5 µm, ellipsoidal, smooth, hyaline, and thin-walled. Hyphal system dimitic and clamp-connections present.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Rajangaon pol, 06/10/2016, on wood log *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Delile, 541m, 19°54'05"N 75°08'46"E, GVU/MVP-480.

Corioloopsis brunneoleuca (Berk.) Ryvarden.

Basidiome pileate, reflexed and widely effused to almost resupinate, 2–13.1 × 1.6–4.8 × 0.1–0.4 cm, fused laterally to imbricate or elongated rows, flexible and separable from the substrate, tomentose, concentrically sulcate, finely scrupose warts, with age, the tomentum becomes paler and disappears zone wise, pileus the becomes blackish. Margin is very thin and way. Pore surface ochraceous to pale brown, pores round to angular, 2–3 per mm. Context up to 2 mm deep, dark brown to the bay, distinctly darker than the tubes, with a narrow agglutinated zone towards the pileus. Tubes up to 2 mm deep. Hyphal system trimitic, Generative hypahe with clamps 1.5–3 µm wide. Skeletal hyphae yellowish to pale brown, thick-walled and dominating, 3.5–5 µm wide, dextrinoid. Binding hyphae are rather rare and mostly golden yellow, almost solid, 2.5–4 µm wide. Cystidia and other sterile elements are absent. Basidia clavate, 20–30 × 4.5–6 µm, with the basal clamp. Spores cylindrical, hyaline, thin-walled, 8–12 × 2.5–4 µm.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Asegaon, 06/10/2016, on wood log *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Delile, 539m, 19°53'19"N 75°11'14"E, GVU/MVP-485.

***Daldinia concentrica* (Bolton) Ces. & De Not.**

Basidiome appears as hard hemispherical to variously shaped cushions 2.4–4.5 cm diam., reddish-brown to purplish brown, soon changes to black. The outer surface is smooth, somewhat shiny, dotted with minute pores formed by the ostiole of the perithecia. In a vertical section, stromata show distinct concentric zoning of its fibrous hyphal tissues caused by the regions of thick-walled hyphae alternating with less thick regions. Perithecia crowded in a single layer just below the outer crust, immersed in stomatal tissue, possess a conical neck. Asci within the perithecium immersed in mucilage, cylindrical, 75 – 150 × 8.5 – 12 µm, with a long stalk. Ascospores are uniseriate, elliptical to inequilateral, opaque at maturity, 12.5–16.5 × 6 – 9.5 µm. Conidia ovate to ellipsoid, olive green, 6.5 – 8 × 4 – 5 µm.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Asegaon, 06/10/2016, on wood log *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Delile, 539m, 19°53'18"N 75°11'13"E, GVU/MVP-483.

***Flavodon flavus* (Klotzsch) Ryvar den.**

Basidiome resupinate to pileate, 1.5 – 11.5 × 1.1–5 × 0.2–0.4 cm, thin, leathery. Pileus 0.5 – 5.5 × 0.4–1.1 × 0.2–0.4 cm, tomentose, with concentric zonation, dull, concentrically ridged, faint yellowish to yellowish-brown. Pore surface grayish-yellow to brown, poroid near margin, round to angular, becomes hydroid towards the center, 1–2 per mm. Context up to 1 mm, homogenous to duplexed, upper tomentum separated from the context by a thin layer, greyish-yellow, Tubes up to 3 mm wide, faint yellowish to yellowish-brown. Hyphal system dimitic. Generative hyphae hyaline, thin to slightly thick-walled, simple septate, branched, 2.5 – 4.5 µm wide. Skeletal hyphae pale yellowish-brown in KOH, thick-walled, sparingly branched, 3.5–7 µm wide. Basidia 024–30 × 4.5–6 µm, clavate, hyaline, thin-walled. Spores hyaline, ellipsoid, smooth, thin-walled 5.5–7 × 3–4 µm. Cystidia occur as skeletal hyphal projection, thick-walled, encrusted at the tip, 24–35 × 3–5 µm.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Asegaon, 06/10/2016, on wood log

Azadirachta indica A.Juss, 539m, 19°53'19"N 75°11'14"E, GVU/MVP-476.

***Funalia leonina* (Klotzsch) Pat.**

Basidiome pileate, semicircular to elongated, 3.4–5.5 × 2.1–3.6 cm, up to 24 cm thick near the base, covered with a dense mat of strigose hairs, becoming hispid when old, cream white when fresh, soon pale yellow to straw-colored, tomentum up to 9 mm deep. Pores surface 1– 2 per mm, hydroid, angular, thick-walled. Context up to 18 mm thick. Tube up to 6 mm deep. Hyphal system trimitic, Generative hyphae with clamps, 3.5–5 µm wide. Skeletal hyphae more or less thick-walled to solid, hyaline 3–5 µm wide. Binding hyphae 2.5– 6 µm. Cystidia absent. Basidia clavate, cylindric, 25–30 × 6.5–8 µm with a basal clamp. Spores 11.5–15 × 3–5 µm, cylindrical, hyaline.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Dhegaon Bangla, 29/09/2016, on wood log *Mangifera indica* L., 485m, 19°44'06"N 75°07'45"E, GVU/MVP-439.

***Ganoderma chalceum* (Cooke) Steyaert.**

Basidiome pileate, semicircular, appanate, 12.9 × 9.4 cm, up to 2.7 cm thick near stipe juncture, laterally stipitate, sometimes sessile, mostly sulcate, weakly zonate, glabrous, faint reddish-brown to dark reddish brown. Pore surface poroid round, regular, pores 3–5 per mm. Context up to 18 mm wide, black resinous band starting at the base and extending almost to the margin, coffee brown. Tubes up to 9 mm deep, pale brown. Stipe 4.1 × 2.4 cm, homogenous, reddish-brown. Hyphal system dimitic, generative hyphae 1.5–3 µm wide, clamped, thin-walled, branched, smooth, hyaline. Skeletal hyphae 2–7 µm wide, thick-walled to solid. Spores 8–11 × 6.5–7.5 µm, ellipsoid, bitunicate, truncate at apex.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Waluj, 29/09/2016, on the living tree at root *Pithecellobium dulce* (Roxb.) Benth, 511m, 19°48'31"N 75°14'03"E, GVU/MVP-444.

***Gymnopilus pampeanus* (Speg.) Singer.**

Basidiome 2.9–5.6 cm diam., convex when young, becoming plane finally depressed at the center. depression often deepens to the stipe, surface deep yellow when young, grayish orange at maturity, dry, silky to fibrillose, appressed fibrillose- squamulose. Margin thin, entire. Gills free, 14-16 per cm, sinuate to adanate, rather crowded, golden yellow. Stipe 4–6.3 × 0.3– 0.9 cm, pale yellowish-white, on bruising change to pale reddish-brown, strongly fibrillose-

striate with scattered fibrillose squamules. Basidia 21 – 24 × 6.5 – 8 µm, sterigmata up to 6 µm long. Lamella-edge sterile with cheilocystidia. Cheilocystidia 22 – 25 × 6 – 8.5 µm, ventricose, lecythiform capitate, capitellum up to 6 µm diam., thin-walled, Pleurocystidia not observed. Spores 7–8 × 4–5 µm, broadly ellipsoid, without germ-pore, thick-walled.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Sangvi (Bu), 06/10/2016, on wood log *Mangifera indica* L., 523m, 19°54'34"N 75°01'54"E, GVU/MVP-491.

***Navisporus floccosus* (Bres.) Ryvarden.**

Basidiome pileate 16.3 × 12.4 cm, up to 7.8 cm thick at the base, fleshy, becomes corky after drying, sessile, light in weight after drying, yellowish-brown to dull, smooth, glabrous, soft, white to brown powdery appearance on the pileus. Pore surface pale orange to grayish orange, on bruising change to dark brown, pores round, regular, 2– 3 per mm. Margin obtuse, smooth. Context up to 54 mm thick at middle, pale orange to orange-white, homogenous. Tube up to 24 cm long, light brown. Hyphal system dimitic, Generative hyphae thin-walled, hyaline, septate with clamp, 2– 2.5 µm wide. Skeletal hyphae thick-walled, hyaline, unbranched, 5–10 µm wide. Spores 11–13 × 5–7 µm, slightly thick-walled, smooth, hyaline, with large oil guttules, oblong to navicular, dextrinoid.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Waluj, 29/09/2016, on living tree at main trunk *Ficus benghalensis* L., 515m, 19°50'27"N 75°15'24"E, GVU/MVP-433.

***Phellinus allardii* (Bres.) S. Ahmad.**

Basidiome mostly resupinate, effused reflex to pileate 9.2 × 5.9 × 0.2–2.1 cm, heavy when fresh, corky hard on drying, broadly attached and elongated frequently sub-resupinate with a steep margin and thickened in the central part, narrowly sulcate with numerous narrow ridges and zones, first deep reddish brown and covered with a tomentum under which there is a distinct black line, Margin fertile, sharp, undulating, velvety. Pore surface poroid, round, regular, pores 6–8 per mm, yellowish brown when young, glancing when turned in incident light. Context very thin, sometimes almost absent and only a black zone may be observed on the top of tubes, reddish brown to umber brown. Tubes stratose, up to 3 mm deep in each layer. Hyphal system dimitic, generative hyphae thin-walled, simple septate, 1.5 – 2.5 µm

wide, skeletal hyphae thick-walled, golden brown to rusty brown, 2–3.5 µm wide. hymenial setae none. Basidia 9–13 × 4.5–6 µm. 4–sterigmate. Spores 5–6 × 3.5–4 µm, broadly ellipsoid to subglobose, abundant in the section, moderately thick-walled, smooth, brown.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Waluj, 29/09/2016, on living tree at main trunk *Senna siamea* (Lam.) H.S.Irwin & Barneby, 411m, 19°49'10"N 75°14'29"E, GVU/MVP-445.

***Pseudofavolus tenuis* (Fr.) G. Cunn.**

Basidiome effused-reflexed to pileate, 2.8–3.8 × 1.6–2.6 cm, up to 0.3 cm thick at base, dimidiate, flabelliform to semicircular, when pileate attached broad lateral base, rarely connate, smooth concentrically zonate, sulcate, glabrous, radially wrinkled, grayish brown to light brown to dark blonde to teak brown, becoming distinctly reddish-brown to dark purplish at the base and cuticle spreading towards margin. Pore surface poroid 1–2 per mm wide, angular to hexagonal, pale grey to brownish-grey. Context up to 1 mm wide, homogenous. Tubes up to 2 mm long, homogenous. Hyphal system trimitic. Generative hyphae hyaline, thin-walled, clamp, branched, 2–3.5 µm wide. Skeletal hyphae thick-walled, yellow to pale brown, 2.5–6 µm wide. Binding hyphae hyaline, thick-walled, 3.5–6 µm wide. Spores 12–18 × 4–6.5 µm, cylindrical, hyaline, thick-walled.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Waluj, 29/09/2016, on fallen twig of *Limonia acidissima* Groff, 494m, 19°47'01"N 75°12'15"E, GVU/MVP-435.

***Psathyrella* sp**

Basidiome 1.6–4.3 cm in diameter, rounded, conical then convex, when young, convex expanding to applanate when mature, cream grey to pinkish grey to dull brown. Margin cernate to striate, creamy to greyish white. Gills free, 13–14 per cm, close to rather crowded, greyish to dark brown. Stalk 2.6–6.1 × 0.3–0.5 cm, central, swollen at base, tapering toward apex, smooth, solid, greyish white. Context papery thin, fleshy, homogenous, dull brown. Hyphal system monomitic; generative hyphae 4–22 µm wide, septate, thin-walled, smooth, hyaline. Cheilocystidia 20–35 × 5.5–13 µm, elongated cylindrical, obtuse apex, thin-walled, smooth, hyaline. Basidia 16–23 × 5–7 µm, clavate, 4-sterigmate, septate at base. Spores 6.5–7.5 × 3–5 µm, ellipsoid, thin-walled, smooth.

Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Gangapur, 29/09/2016, on wood log *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Delile, 511m, 19°42'07"N 75°01'19"E, GVU/MVP-442.

***Schizophyllum commune* Fr.**

Basidiome pileate, flabelliform to kidney or bean-shaped 1–3.9 × 0.7–2.8 cm, up to 0.3 cm thick, laterally attached by a small base. surface pale to dark grayish brown, villose lobed. Fertile surface falsely gilled, separating along gill's-edge. Context up to 1 mm thick. Hyphal system monomitic, Generative hyphae thin to thick-walled not inflating, septate with clamps. Basidia 16–20 × 4–6 μm, narrowly clavate, bearing four sterigmata. Cystida absent. Spores 3–5 × 1.4–2.5 μm, allantoids, cylindrical, hyaline, thin-walled, smooth. Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Tembapuri, 29/09/2016, on standing stump of dried tree *Delonix regia* (Hook.) Raf, 497m, 19°45'36"N 75°09'47"E, GVU/MVP-438.

***Tremella mesenterica* Retz.**

Basidiome cerebriform or lobed, 2.1 × 1.6 × 1.5 cm, solitary or in groups, gelatinous, moist, bright golden yellow to yellowish-orange, basidiome becomes greasy or smily during the wet weather. Basidia 13–30 × 10–22 μm, with clamps. Sterigmata 124–145 × 2.5–4 μm. Spores 11–15 × 4–6 μm, broadly ellipsoid to subspherical, smooth, hyaline. Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Asegaon, 06/10/2016, on fallen twigs *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Delile, 539m, 19°53'18"N 75°11'13"E, GVU/MVP-482.

***Truncospora tephropora* (Mont.) Zmitr.**

Basidiome resupinate to widely effused, 67 × 29 cm, up to 1.7 cm thick at the center, tough to hard when fresh, woody hard on drying, broadly elongated. Margin sterile, obtuse, grayish-yellow to yellowish. Pore surface poroid, 4–6 per mm pores,

round, regular, cracked when mature, grayish-yellow to grayish brown on drying. Context papery thin to almost absent, hard, homogenous, grayish-yellow to grayish brown. Tubes up to 17 mm wide, duplex or in the layer, each layer or strata up to 3 mm wide, light brown to coffee brown. Hyphal system trimitic, Generative hyphae 2–3 μm wide, clamped, thin-walled, smooth, hyaline. Skeletal hyphae 3–4 μm wide, thick-walled, smooth, olivaceous in KOH. Binding hyphae 1.5–3 μm wide, thin to thick-walled, branched, smooth, hyaline. Basidia 12.5–16 × 4–5 μm, narrowly clavate, 4-sterigmata, clamped at the base. Spores 4.5–6 × 3.5–4.5 μm, broadly ellipsoid, truncate, collapsed partly, moderately thick-walled. Specimen examined: INDIA; Maharashtra, Marathwada, Aurangabad district, Taluka Gangapur, Gangapur, 29/09/2016, on wood log *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Delile, 490m, 19°42'15"N 75°02'02"E, GVU/MVP-441.

CONCLUSION:

Sixty-two wood-decaying fungi collected during the present study represented the nine families Auriculariaceae, Hymenochaetaceae, Hymenogastraceae, Hypoxylaceae, Irpicaceae, Polyporaceae, Psathyrellaceae, Schizophyllaceae, and Tremellaceae. From the above observation and discussion, it is concluded that the family Polyporaceae was dominant consisting of six genera. Mostly dominating macrofungi were observed *Auricularia mesenterica*, *Auricularia nigricans*, *Corioloropsis brunneoleuca*, *Daldinia concentrica*, *Flavodon flavus*, *Pseudofavolus tenuis*, *Schizophyllum commune*, and *Truncospora tephropora*. While *Cyathus striatus*, *Funalia leonina*, *Ganoderma chalceum*, *Gymnopilus pampeanus*, *Navisporus floccosus*, *Phellinus allardii*, *Psathyrella* sp, and *Tremella mesenterica* were of rare occurrence. The macrofungi reported during this study belonged to eight hosts *Acacia nilotica*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Delonix regia*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Limonia acidissima*, *Mangifera indica*, *Pithecellobium dulce*, and *Senna siamea*.

Plate- 1



Auricularia mesenterica
(Dicks.) Pers.



Auricularia nigricans (Sw.)
Birkebak, Looney &
Sánchez-García.



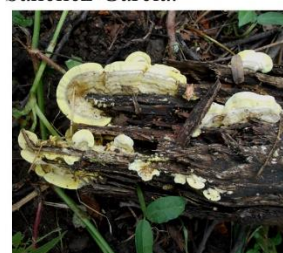
Cyathus striatus (Huds.)
Willd.



Corioloopsis brunneoleuca
(Berk.) Ryvardeen.



Daldinia concentrica
(Bolton) Ces. & De Not.



Flavodon flavus
(Klotzsch) Ryvardeen.



Funalia leonina (Klotzsch)
Pat.



Ganoderma chaliceum
(Cooke) Steyaert.



Gymnopilus pampeanus
(Speg.) Singer.



Navisporus floccosus
(Bres.) Ryvardeen.



Phellinus allardii (Bres.)
S. Ahmad.



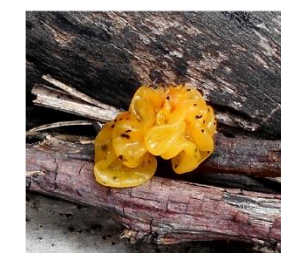
Pseudofavolus tenuis
(Fr.) G. Cunn.



Psathyrella sp



Schizophyllum commune
Fr.



Tremella mesenterica
Retz.



Truncospora tephropora
(Mont.) Zmitr.

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