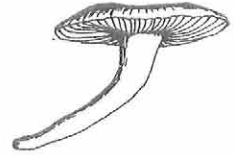


Then a riot of colour and form unfolds – flame azaleas, native magnolia, rhododendron (*R. maximum*) [the state flower of West Virginia], magnificent tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and the white ‘tea tree’ (*Sassafras albidum*).

Colourful wildflowers too numerous to name jostle for space and light in the vernal race against time to get pollinated and set seed before the white-tailed deer eat them or leaves of the forest trees shade out all the light. Then all too soon the autumn colour came round again.

Thank you, Steve, for a wonderful walk through your woods.
– Allison Knight



National Fungal Foray, Okuru, 5 – 12 May, 2002.

The biggest congratulations and thanks for organising this year's very successful National Fungal Foray must go to David Orlovich and his team from the Botany Department, University of Otago, who put it all together. David's report follows – ed.

This year the 16th New Zealand Fungal Foray was based at Okuru on the beautiful lower West Coast of the South Island. We left Dunedin at about 9 AM on Sunday 5th May and arrived at Okuru (about 10 minutes drive south of Haast) at about 4 PM. Having not seen the sun in Dunedin for some time, the warmth of Central Otago and the spectacular drive through the Otago Lakes and along the Haast Valley was a welcome indication of the great week we were about to have. In typical West Coast style, we had rain, sun, fog, storms and surprisingly mild temperatures for most of the week.

The wet weather preceding our visit ensured that there were mushrooms aplenty in the coastal forests south of Haast, albeit mostly wood-rotting ones, with a relative paucity of large ectomycorrhizal species even in the beech forests. Lawre Taylor treated the brave to a meal of *Armillaria novazelandia* on one evening - that species was fruiting in abundance - although I must admit the slimy texture didn't particularly appeal to me! In all, there were about 54 participants in the foray, with most from New Zealand but others from Australia, the United States of America and England.

There was a notable presence of photographers, both professional and amateur, as well as journalists from TV NZ, National Radio and NZ House & Garden. We were treated to beautiful slide and video presentations by Taylor Lockwood, Don Horne and Shirley Kerr. Dunedin photographer Andrew MacKay has put some photographs from the foray on the web at <http://www.keaphotos.co.nz/> (follow the link to "Fungi" and then "Foray Photos").

Student attendance was particularly high, with Rebekah Fuller from the University of Auckland who gave a talk on Maatauranga Maori o nga Harore or traditional ecological knowledge of fungi, and a large group from the University of Otago that included eight 4th year Mycology students and several honours and postgrad research students. A real thrill for me was seeing these students really enjoying the week-long "immersion" in field mycology. I am sure that the interactions between the students and other foray participants, both professionals and amateurs, will motivate and enthuse this next generation of New Zealand mycologists and I'm really proud to be

a part of that! Toni Atkinson made good collections of wood-decaying ascomycetes in the family Lasiosphaeraceae for her PhD and Chad Tustin made collections of an unidentified *Cortinarius* (subgen. *Myxacium*) species for his thesis on population genetics and DNA fingerprinting. Most of the remaining collections went to the New Zealand Fungal Herbarium (PDD, Landcare Research), with a smaller number going to the herbarium at Forest Research in Rotorua and the University of Otago Herbarium (OTA).

On Wednesday 8th May, we were treated to a wide range of talks as part of the "Mycology Colloquium". Talks included the development of "mycoherbicides" for biological control (by Jane Frohlich from Landcare Research), through to fire ecology of Western Australian fungi (by Richard Robinson from CALM, WA), coprophilous fungi by Ann Bell and Dan Mahoney, the NZ fungi database/website by Jerry Cooper (Landcare Research, Lincoln) and "Car cooking" (!) by Geoff Ridley from Forest Research (actually it was serious - about the best way to destroy unwanted organisms arriving in/on imported cars into New Zealand including an experiment where a car was cooked in a big oven!). I thoroughly enjoyed the Mycology Colloquium and from the comments of others, so did everyone else.

Stewart Bell from the University of Otago brought all the food, microscopes, BBQ, dehydrator and heaps of other things for the foray from Dunedin in a big truck. We were lucky to have Lee Houppapa cooking for the foray, with the bonus of cooked breakfasts every morning! Fans of Lee's cooking can catch her at Dunedin's Tangenté Café on Monday's and Wednesday's. Peter Buchanan from Landcare Auckland ferried others from Queenstown in a bus, which unfortunately missed one English passenger, Mary Hunt. Mary "accidentally" flew to Christchurch instead of Queenstown and boldly convinced a taxi driver to drive her from Christchurch airport to Haast! Apparently the taxi driver had never been over Arthur's Pass before. They got as far as Fox Glacier by nightfall and Mary caught a bus to Haast the following morning.

The largest foray so far, in the most remote place yet, couldn't have taken place without the help of many people, especially Mary Anne Miller, Vickey Clarke and Stewart Bell from the Botany Department, University of Otago, Paula Wilkie and Peter Buchanan from Landcare Research Mt Albert, and Kingsley Timpson and Paula Penno from the Department of Conservation at Fox Glacier. Brian and Phillipa from the Haast Beach Holiday Park made sure we all had somewhere cosy to sleep and work. Thanks very much to those people and to everyone else who attended for making the foray the great success that it was.

David Orlovich, Botany Department, University of Otago

Fig. *Cladia sullivani*

Lichen Workshop, Dunedin, 18 May 2002

There's something catching about enthusiasm which is why on a cool Saturday morning, in howling mists on Mt Cargill, there were nine people peering intently groundwards! These hardy souls were taking part in the recent Lichen Workshop. Superbly organised by Jennifer Bannister and Alli Knight, with 'in workshop' expert advice from David Galloway, the author of the New Zealand Lichen Flora, the workshop was a great success.

