

Cooloola National Park Foray 3rd March 2012

This foray was scheduled for 25th February, when the area received a drenching of nearly 300mm in the preceding week, with a severe weather warning on the actual day! Naturally enough the outing was postponed, and one week later we enjoyed a beautiful mild day, with a little welcome sunshine. As the park is a sandy heathland community, with scattered scribbly gums, banksias and casuarinas, it was almost dry underfoot. The understory of grasses and small shrubs was very thick, due to good rain and lack of fire. This meant that the best places to find fungi were along the fire trails and under the casuarinas where the needles suppress other plant growth.

We were delighted to find 19 different species of fungi. Despite the absence of an experienced mycologist, we were able to name a number of the fungi, at least to Genus. (It would be interesting to visit this regular site in a different month next year, as there may be a different suite of fungi fruiting then.)

Among our more exciting finds were:

1. *Amanita roseolamellata* (Pink gilled Amanita), which as the name says has pale pink gills. It had a rather reduced annulus and a saccate volva. There were scattered patches of flat cream velar remains on the cap surface.
 2. An apricot coloured *Omphalina* sp. growing in a wet mossy bank with a green algal mat. It had decurrent gills and a depressed centre to the cap, (omphalus= "belly button"). This fungus is probably a lichenised macro-fungus.
 3. A black/dark grey-brown rather coral-like small fungus, growing on the fire trail. There was quite a lot of it present. Unlike corals the tips were rather flattened. It dropped a brown spore print and the spores were bluntly ovoid and decorated with spines. This places it in the *Thelephora* Genus, which like Stereums drop their spores from the whole surface of the fungus, not from pores as in the Polypores.
 4. We also found a couple of Boletes, one of which had a bright yellow cap surface, flesh and pores. It turned slightly blue, but very slowly, when cut in half. It had already been discovered by the maggots, so we left it there. We weren't able to find it in the books we had on Boletes.
- Altogether a good Foray.

Frances Guard

1.



2.



3.



4.

