

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Cup Fungi, Truffles and Allies Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

14

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: www.cybertruffle.org.uk/ascos/index.htm

Mission statement

To promote conservation of ascomycete fungi by raising awareness that they have vital roles as nutrient recyclers, mutualistic symbionts of animals and plants, and as checks and balances in freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and that like other fungi, animals and plants, they are endangered by climate change, habitat destruction, persecution and pollution.

Projected impact 2021–2025

By the end of 2025, we plan for fifty new evaluations of ascomycete fungi to be added each year to the IUCN Red List, with a cadre of trained assessors, particularly including younger mycologists, led and guided by an increasingly experienced Red List Authority Coordinator. We intend to increase awareness of the vital role of fungi in an expanding range of conservation NGOs, in the public, and among national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity. Where national focal points are receptive, we will supply them with information about ascomycetes and the need

to conserve them. We furthermore intend to increase awareness that fungal culture collections, which are currently strongly oriented towards commercial exploitation of fungi, also have a role to play in ex situ conservation. There will be a succession plan in place to ensure an ordered transfer of leadership of the Specialist Group when the present senior Co-Chair retires.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Train two collaborators in Red List Authority work.

T-002 Complete IUCN Red List assessments for five species of desert truffles.

T-003 Complete IUCN Red List assessments for three species of European truffles.

T-004 Produce a document listing recommended sources of information for assessing non-lichen-forming ascomycetes.

NETWORK

T-006 Engage with the Fungal and Plant Conservation Coordinator at the Global Center for Species Survival to enhance interaction between this Specialist Group and other areas of IUCN and relevant initiatives.

COMMUNICATE

T-005 Finalise the first version of the Cup Fungi, Truffles and Allies (CFTA) Specialist Group website.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-004 (KSR 7)

Coverage of existing data by Red List evaluators improved: ongoing

Result description: The document listing recommended sources of information for assessing non-lichen-forming ascomycetes is in progress.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-006 (KSR 3)

Number of online virtual meetings: 2

Result description: Zoom meetings have been attended.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-005 (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: ongoing

Result description: The first version of the CFTA Specialist Group website is in progress.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

Geographic regions: 6 Global

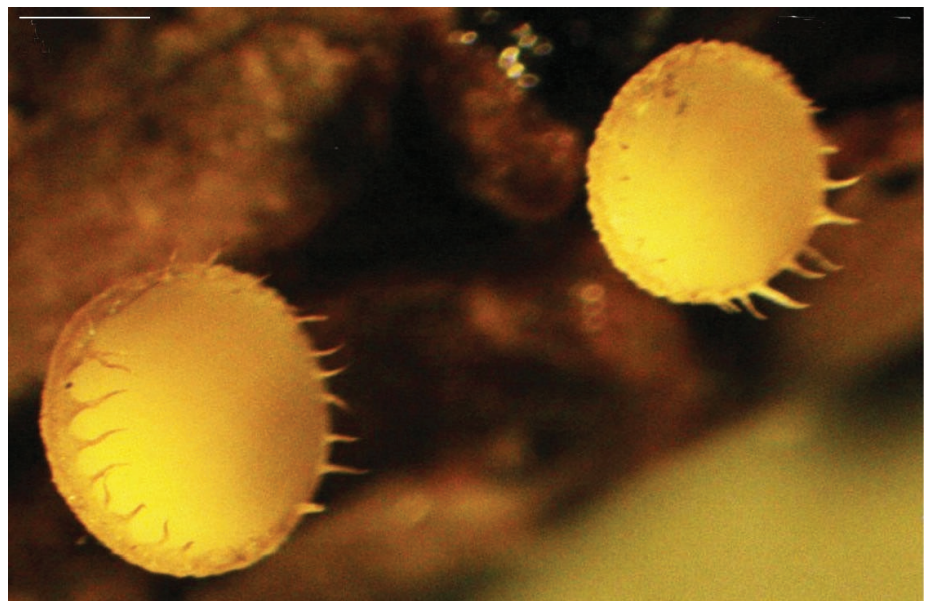
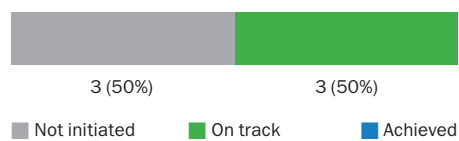
Actions during 2021:

Assess: 1 (KSR 7)

Network: 1 (KSR 3)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



Cyathicula coronata (scale bar = 1 mm)
Photo: D.W. Minter