

# IUCN SSC Cup Fungi, Truffles and Allies Specialist Group

2018 Report



David Minter

## Chair

David Minter

## Red List Authority Coordinator

David Minter

## Location/Affiliation

CAB International, Egham, Surrey, UK

## Number of members

16

## Social networks

Website:

[www.cybertruffle.org.uk/ascos/index.htm](http://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 animals, plants and other fungi, they are endangered by climate change, habitat destruction, persecution and pollution.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we plan to have the basic infrastructure within IUCN to enable conservation of ascomycete fungi to be promoted, with global Red List evaluations for at least 150 species. This will in turn mean more Specialist Group members, their training in communication skills and in Red Listing procedures, and greater activity by those members, so that the group is nowhere dependent on a single person. We intend to achieve an increase in awareness of the vital role of fungi first among IUCN personnel, and thereafter in an expanding range of other conservation NGOs, in the public, and among national focus points for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Assess

Red List: evaluation of 150 non-lichen-forming ascomycetes for the IUCN Red List, particularly those with human food value (Toyota Project, first tranche).

### Network

Capacity building: development of a list of essential sources to consult for evaluating species.

Scientific meetings: collaboration with European Mycological Association and International Society for Fungal Conservation in organising a European-level meeting on fungal conservation in Macedonia in October 2017.

Synergy: appointments of Specialist Group Co-Chair, Red List Authority Coordinator and Programme Officer.

### Communicate

Communication: (1) registration of Internet domain name for Specialist Group; (2) establishment of Specialist Group website; (3) establishment of email dedicated addresses for Specialist Group Chair, Specialist Group Co-Chair, Red List Authority Coordinator and Programme Officer; (4) establishment of Facebook account; (5) establishment of Twitter account.

Detail of stromatal lobes of *Hypocreopsis rhododendri* [preliminary assessment, Vulnerable], on bark of *Corylus avellana*, with ostioles visible as dark dots. (Bar = approx. 5 mm)  
Photo: P.F. Cannon



**Activities and results 2018**

**Assess**

Red List

i. Work on assessments of 150 non-lichen-forming ascomycetes for IUCN Red List started. (KSR #1)

**Network**

Capacity building

i. Draft list of sources for observations of ascomycetes prepared and circulated to group; other draft lists (of resources for defining individuals and population numbers, and for identifying threats) started. (KSR #5)

Synergy

i. Programme Officer appointed. (KSR #5)

**Communicate**

Communication

i. Domain name [www.asco-conservation.org](http://www.asco-conservation.org) registered. (KSR #28)

ii. Very basic draft home page established. (KSR #28)

iii. Dedicated email addresses set up for Chair, Co-Chair, Red List Authority Coordinator and Programme Officer. (KSR #28)

**Summary of activities 2018**

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

Assess	1	
Network	2	
Communicate	3	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 5, 28

KSR: Key Species Result



Field image of stroma of *Hypocreopsis rhododendri* [preliminary assessment, Vulnerable], on bark of *Corylus avellana*, Pembrokeshire, UK. (Bar = approx. 10 mm)  
Photo: P.F. Cannon