

Acknowledgements

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Collybiopsis subpruinosa in Britain

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Here in central urban Winchester, Hampshire, there is a small isolated stand of trees, mainly *Taxus baccata*, which have somehow survived despite the surrounding school, car park and housing developments. Whilst walking down the short footpath next to these trees in September 2024 the author noticed clusters of an agaric arising from the buried woody debris. Hygrophanous striate caps were reddish-brown when young soon becoming light-brown, gills were adnate and the stems cream-buff at the apex, dark brown to almost black towards the base. Viewed through a hand lens, the cap, stem and gill edges were found to be minutely pruinose. Initially I thought these were *Gymnopus foetidus*, which is locally common, but all the fruit bodies were odourless. Collected specimens dropped white, ellipsoid, inamyloid spores measuring $7.5\text{--}9 \times 3.5\text{--}4\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. The collection was tentatively named *Gymnopus inodorus*.

A subsequent trawl of the internet produced *Collybiopsis subpruinosa* which looked a good

match for my collection. This species has a wide distribution being recorded from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Hawaii, Jamaica, Madeira, New Zealand, Panama, Puerto Rico and the USA where it is found on humus-rich soils, woody debris and logs. In Europe, where it has been recorded in Austria, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland, *C. subpruinosa* is regarded as an introduced alien North American species. There are no records of *C. subpruinosa* on the FRDBI but it has made it onto update 11 of the British Checklist CBIB (Ainsworth & Henrici, 2023) via a 2021 collection from Nick Aplin found on buried debris beneath *Kalmia latifolia* (a New World ericaceous shrub) in a garden at Crawley, East Sussex. It was accepted by CBIB as *C. subpruinosa* “based on a comparison of its ITS sequence (N. Aplin) with those of this species sensu Antonín (MK646034) and Hughes & Petersen (e.g. DQ450027)” who are recognised specialists in this field.



Fig. 1. *Collybiopsis subpruinosa*, encountered in urban Winchester, September 2024. Photograph © Graham Mattock.

Eric Janke of the Hampshire Fungus Recording Group kindly agreed to DNA sequence my collection (accessioned on GenBank PV690299) and a BLAST search returned 100% matches, with over 95% query cover, to four *C. subpruinosa* sequences (PP578054, PQ509886, PP826430, MK646034) and another 100% match to a sequence from Mata *et al.*'s (2006) study of the genus, albeit with only 88% query cover (DQ450025). The MK646034 sequence is especially significant because this was one of the reference sequences used to confirm the identification of Nick Aplin's 2021 collection. My find appears to be the second known British collection for this species.

Dried material has been retained in the author's private herbarium H-25/9/24.

Collybiopsis subpruinosa was originally described as *Marasmius subpruinus* by Murrill, it was transferred to the genus *Marasmiellus* by J. S. Oliveira in 2019 based on molecular data and then to the genus *Collybiopsis* by Petersen in Petersen & Hughes (2021) which details the complex taxonomy relating to *Collybiopsis*.

Acknowledgements

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