

EDITORIAL

Current Biology: Fungi special issue

Current Biology published a 'Fungi special issue' in June which, alongside a fascinating article on 'Fungal diversity, evolution, and classification' (Hibbett *et al.*, 2025), included a rather wonderful poster (in PDF format) titled 'Fungal Tree of Life: Macroscopic Diversity of Fungi'. It is free to download and redistribute under a CC BY-NC licence, and can be found under 'supplemental information', here: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2025.01.053>.

Although much of the special issue is accessible only via purchase or subscription, parts are accessible for free, including an article by Lynne Boddy and Maxine E. Herman-Oakley Mills on 'The visual art of mycology' (2025). This includes short profiles of three notable women from the history of mycology: Beatrix Potter, Mary Elizabeth Banning and Anna Maria Hussey, who is something of a hero to your editor, because she wrote so marvellously on the subject of fungi:

"Sticks indeed—dead rotten sticks, such as poor old hags fill a ragged apron with to boil their tea-kettle, are not the despicable things that many would imagine; it would probably be impossible to pick one out which should not be garnished with some species of fungus life; some possessing exquisite beauty, all exquisite contrivances for self-development and propagation and the task they have to fulfil, the disintegration of dead wood."

(Hussey, 1847)

You can see why Lynne Boddy (Professor at Cardiff University) would be taken with Hussey: an early contemplator of fungal ecology and wood decomposition.

Field Mycology

Every issue is a 'Fungi special issue' in *Field Mycology*, and we have a diverse array of species between the pages this month, as well as a feature article on the FunDive project which is launching fungi sampling campaigns across Europe and inviting field mycologists in the UK to get involved.

A field mycologist's centenary

One of *Field Mycology's* loyal readers, Bert Brand, who will be well known to all long-term BMS forayers, this year celebrated his 100th birthday on October 6th.

He has earned a permanent place in the history of British mycological recording as chairman of the remarkable team of amateur mycologists who assembled the 1980 *Fungus Flora of Warwickshire* under the editorship of Malcolm Clark, still unsurpassed as a county Mycota.

A keen photographer, he came across *Clathrus archeri* in a neighbour's garden and wanted to know what it was. Birmingham Natural History Society put him in touch with the Warwickshire mycologists and a late starting but very fruitful mycological career got under way. The *Fungus Flora* was not Bert's only contribution to the field mycology community—he also published a very thorough compilation of the literature on *Agaricus* in Britain, at a time when there was little else available.

My thanks to Alick Henrici and Geoffrey Kibby for sharing these recollections. A longer feature celebrating Bert Brand's lifetime in mycology can be found in the September 2025 edition of the BMS Newsletter.



Clare Blencowe

References

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