

REPORT ON THE MUSHROOM STUDY PROJECT CARRIED OUT AT THE GRAND TETON
AND YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARKS AND VICINITY DURING SUMMER OF 1988

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This project was carried out during the period of 17 June through 30 June 1988 while in residence at the U.W-N.P.S. Research Center in the Grand Teton National Park. The goal of the research project was two fold. Having spent considerable time studying snowbank fungi in the Sierra Nevada it was decided to compare the flora of the Teton area with that of other areas receiving heavy snow fall. Secondly based upon experience from time spent during the previous year in this region, it appeared that there was an interesting diversity of species in the genera *Russula* and *Boletaceae* in the general vicinity. Also, since these are the fungi which I have spent considerable time investigating their diversity and ecology, it was desirable to learn more of the flora in order to determine its composition and to compare it with that of other regions.

Unfortunately, due to the extremely dry weather which prevailed during the entire period spent at the Center, very few fungi were found. A list of the fungi found is presented in Table 1. No members of the genus *Russula* or of the family *Boletaceae* were found during the entire period and only a few snowbank fungi were found. It is interesting to note that all snowbank fungi found were also known from the Pacific Northwest, including California.

Daily collecting trips were made during the period. Several trips were made to Yellowstone National Park. In addition, several trips were made to the Togwotee Pass area and vicinity, to Teton Pass and vicinity; to the area along Hwy. 26 between Jackson and Dubois; along the Greys River Road south of Alpine and within the Grand Teton National Park. Although fungi were largely absent from these excursions they did result in the discovery of many areas which in normal years would be expected to have a large, diverse flora of fleshy fungi. Particularly impressive was the Togwotee Pass area which has a good terrain, abundant ectomycorrhizal hosts and high elevation. Numerous other areas in the vicinity seem to hold considerable potential as good areas to explore for fleshy fungi.

Because of the very poor results obtained during the collecting period due to the lack of moisture, it is hoped that permission can be obtained to return to the area in the immediate future. Because of the heavy snow banks encountered, it seems certain that in average years there would be a heavy fruiting of snowbank fungi. My interest still holds in making a comparison of the bolete and russula flora of this region with

that of the Pacific Coast and other areas. It also seems certain that in a more normal year there would be good fruitings of the fleshy fungi such as the russulas and boletes and I still have a desire to compare the flora of this area with that of the west coast.

The late Professor Solheim indicated many years ago that there was an interesting mushroom flora in the Tetons and extended an invitation to work with him in the region. Unfortunately, circumstances would not permit me to participate in such a project. However, it is now possible to devote some time to the flora and I would like to continue to do so during the next few years.

Table 1. Fungi Collected During The Period Of 17 June Through 30 June, 1988.

Calvatia subcretacea
Clitocybe albirhiza - Snowbank Fungus
Clitocybe sp.
Cortinarius sp.
Cryptoporus volvatus
Dasyscyphus aridus - Snowbank Fungus
Dasyscyphus bicolor - Snowbank Fungus
Geastrum sp.
Gerronema postii
Guepineopsis alpina - Snowbank Fungus
Herpotrichia nigra - Snowbank Fungus
Lentinellus montanus - Snowbank Fungus
Lentinus ponderosus
Lycoperdon sp.
Melanoleuca cognata
Morchella elata
Pholiota sp.
Pycnoporellus aurantiacus - Snowbank Fungus
Strobilurus albopilatus
Tyromyces leucospongia - Snowbank Fungus
Xeromphalina campanell
