

## Fair Isle grassland fungi

by Nick J Riddiford, Roy Watling and Ali Murfitt (January 2019)

Fair Isle is extraordinarily diverse in terms of fungi. A window was opened on this world when Roy Watling and the late Bobby Tulloch made a two-day visit in September 1985 (details in FIBO Annual Reports for 1985 & 1986) in which amongst other finds, they reported two species new to Britain. Nick Riddiford continued this study and confirmed the importance particularly of Ward Hill summit with three second UK records. Riddiford continues to monitor the fungi (and general ecology) of Ward Hill but focus latterly has fallen on waxcaps and their grassland allies. Grassland fungi are in serious decline across Britain and Europe in the face of modern agricultural practices – from ploughing to intensive use of agricultural chemicals – and by consequence these fungi have been elevated to European Red List status. Loss of unimproved grassland in Western Europe over the last 75 years is estimated at 90% and grassland fungi serve as indicators for this essential but grossly under-valued wildlife habitat. On Fair Isle, grassland fungi have been the subject of experimental research at Schoolton – whose croft supports a significant diversity of waxcaps and other fungi (Riddiford & Watling, in press). The grassland fungi elsewhere on the isle have not been forgotten and knowledge of the group was considerably enhanced by an intensive survey in the first week of September 2011 by Ali Murfitt, a BTCV/NTS trainee under the tutelage of Professor Watling. This confirmed the importance, in particular, of the numerous areas of short sward sheep-walk along the coastline and throughout the hill-grazing north of the isle. Most areas of cropped grassland support a considerable range of waxcaps and other grassland fungi, even along roadside verges. These habitats have been spared agricultural improvement. The main fruiting period spans August to November, though a few can be found in other months as well. The autumn birdwatching fraternity cannot fail to be aware of the colourful waxcaps and curiously shaped corals, clubs and earth tongues which proliferate in September-October. Fair Isle is certainly a rich site for waxcaps and their allies from a visual, landscape point of view, but how many are aware of their status as icons of conservation under severe threat elsewhere?

The following list comprises all taxa of the grassland fungi indicator group, including variations. The tally so far comes to 31 waxcaps *Hygrophoraceae*, 34 pink-gills *Entolomataceae*, seven coral and club fungi *Clavariaceae*, six earth-tongues *Geoglossaceae* and the BAP species *Microglossum olivaceum* (Helotiaceae). The term “study site” refers to taxa recorded during the research project at Schoolton.

Basidiomycota  
Agaricales

### HYGROPHORACEAE

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe aurantiosplendens* R. Haller Aar., 1954

**Vernacular name:** orange waxcap

**UK status:** occasional, widespread; north to Unst

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe autoconica* var. *acutoconica* (Clements) Singer, 1951

**Synonym:** *Hygrocybe persistens*

**Vernacular name:** persistent waxcap

**UK status:** occasional but widespread; north to Unst

**Fair Isle status:** relatively common, widespread; unimproved & maritime grassland

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe cantharellus* (Schwein.) Murrill, 1911

**Vernacular name:** goblet waxcap

**UK status:** occasional, widespread, can be locally abundant

**Fair Isle status:** common, widespread; known from study site; **new to Shetland**

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe ceracea* (Wulf.) P. Kumm., 1871

**Vernacular name:** butter waxcap

**UK status:** common, widespread; north to Unst

**Fair Isle status:** very common, widespread; unimproved & maritime grassland; abundant in study site

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe chlorophana* (Fr.) Wünsche, 1877

**Vernacular name:** golden waxcap

**UK/regional status:** common, widespread; the most common *Hygrocybe* in Faeroes

**Fair Isle status:** highly abundant, unimproved & maritime grassland

**Variation:** in this study an orange-yellow coloured form has been collected and separated as *Hygrocybe flavescens* (Kauffman) Singer, 1951 *auct. pl.* or *H. euroflavescens* Kühner although this is now not considered significantly different. It is also common and widespread north to Shetland.

**Fair Isle status** very common, grassland & roadside verges

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe coccinea* (Schäff.) P. Kumm., 1871

**Synonym:** *Hygrophorus coccineus*

**Vernacular name:** scarlet waxcap

**UK status:** common, widespread; very common throughout Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** highly abundant, widespread; semi improved & unimproved grassland, coastal turf & heath

**Variation:** although this species generally possesses a convex pileus a distinctly umbonate variety has been recognised as *Hygrocybe coccinea* var. *umbonata* Herink, 1958

**Fair Isle status** known from study site

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe conica* (Schäffer) P. Kummer, 1871

**Synonym:** *Hygrophorus conicus*

**Vernacular name:** blackening waxcap

**UK status:** common, widespread; north to Shetland

**Fair Isle Status:** abundant, widespread; semi improved & unimproved grassland.  
*The concept adopted for this study is that of the New Check List (Legon & Henrici, 2005) but it has been recently demonstrated that it is a mixture of cryptic species.*

**Variation:** *Hygrocybe conica* var. *pseudoconica* J.E.Lange, 1938

**Synonym:** *Hygrocybe nigrescens*

**Vernacular name:** blackening waxcap

**UK status:** 'frequently recorded as a form of *Hygrocybe conica*' (New Checklist); a few sites in Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** local; *Salix repens*-rich grassy heath near school. Differs in its more robust stature and distinctly white base to the stipe.

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe flavipes* (Britzelm.) Bon, 1984

**Vernacular name:** yellow foot waxcap

**UK status:** occasional, widespread

**Fair Isle status:** scarce; unimproved acidic grassland; ***new to Shetland***

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe glutinipes* (J E Lange) R Haller Aar., 1956

**Vernacular name:** glutinous waxcap

**UK status:** occasional, localised; only one record north of Fair Isle (Yell)

**Fair Isle status:** frequent, unimproved bryophyte-rich grassland

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe helobia* (Arnolds) Bon, 1976

**Vernacular name:** garlic waxcap

**UK status:** rarely reported but apparently widespread

**Fair Isle status:** very common, widespread; unimproved grassland and particularly amongst moss on wet soils; ***new to Shetland***

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe insipida* (J E Lange) M M Moser, 1967

**European Red List**

**Vernacular name:** spangle waxcap

**UK:** generally uncommon but very common in Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** unimproved acid grassland from low altitude to north flank of Ward Hill

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe irrigata* (Pers.) Bon, 1976

**Synonym** *Hygrophorus unguinosus*

**Vernacular name:** slimy waxcap

**UK status:** occasional, widespread; can be locally common. In Shetland equally common and widespread; known from all major areas

**Fair Isle status:** common, widespread; unimproved grassland and sheep walk, rough grassland-heath mosaic

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe laeta* (Pers.) P. Kumm., 1871

**Synonym** *Hygrophorus laetus*

**Vernacular name:** heath waxcap

**UK status:** occasional, widespread; most frequent in upland areas of northern and western Britain north to Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** abundant, often in large, dense groups; generally rather acidic, dry free-draining close-cropped grassland from low altitude to summit of Ward Hill

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe miniata* (Fries) Kummer, 1871

**Synonyms:** *Hygrophorus miniatus*; *Hygrocybe strangulata*

**Vernacular name:** vermilion waxcap

**UK status:** occasional, widespread; may be locally common; few Shetland records

**Fair Isle status:** very common, widespread; unimproved grassland & grassy heath

**Variation:** a form with strongly constricted basidiospores has been separated out as *H. strangulata* (orange-red waxcap) but this is not now considered sufficiently distinct

**UK status:** relatively common, widespread; two known sites, Shetland

**Fair Isle status** common at study site

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe mucronella* (Fr.) Karst., 1879

**Synonym:** *Hygrocybe reai*

**Vernacular name:** bitter waxcap

**UK status:** common, widespread; north to Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe pratensis* (Pers.) Murrill, 1914

**Synonym:** *Hygrophorus pratensis*

**Vernacular name:** meadow waxcap

**UK status:** common, widespread; very common, Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** the isle's commonest waxcap, very abundant throughout; unimproved, generally dry grassland from littoral to Ward Hill summit

**Variation:** *Hygrocybe pratensis* var. *pallida* (Cooke) Arnolds, 1985

**Synonym:** *Hygrocybe berkeleyi* (P. D. Orton) P. D. Orton & Watling, 1969

**Vernacular name:** pale waxcap; white meadow waxcap

**UK status:** occasional, widespread; north to Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** infrequent; unimproved grassland, sheep walk

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe psittacina* (Schäff.) P. Kumm., 1871

**UK status:** common, widespread; very common, Shetland

**Vernacular name:** parrot waxcap

**Fair Isle status:** nearly as common as *H. pratensis*, abundant throughout; unimproved grassland from littoral to Ward Hill summit

*The concept adopted during the study was that of the New Check List (Legon & Henrici, 2005). Subsequently molecular studies have demonstrated the existence in British material of several cryptic species within a complex.*

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe punicea* (Fr.) P. Kumm., 1871

**Vernacular name:** crimson waxcap

**UK status:** occasional, widespread; may be locally common, especially in northern and western areas including Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** common, particularly roadside verges

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe quieta* (Kühner) Singer, 1951

**European Red List**

**Synonym:** *Hygrophorus quietus*

**Vernacular name:** oily waxcap

**UK status:** uncommonly reported, though common in Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** relatively common, widespread; neutral unimproved and coastal grassland

**Variation:** an odourless form found during the study has been equated with the concept of *Hygrocybe obrussea* (Fr.) Wünsche, 1877 adopted by Orton (1960)

**UK status:** occasional, widespread; uncommon, Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe reidii* Kühner, 1976

**Vernacular name:** honey waxcap

**UK status:** common, widespread; infrequent, Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** infrequent, scattered; unimproved grassland and sheep walk

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe russocoriacea* (Berk. & T. K. Miller) P. Orton & Watling, 1969

**Vernacular name:** cedarwood waxcap

**UK status:** common to occasional, widespread; localised but common in some years in Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe turunda* (Fr.) P. Karst., 1879

**UK/regional status:** rarely reported but apparently fairly widespread including Shetland; recorded from Faeroes

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe virginea* (Wulfen) P Orton & Watling, 1969

**Synonym:** *Hygrocybe nivea*

**Vernacular name:** snowy waxcap

**UK/regional status:** common, widespread; north to Shetland; recorded from Faeroes as *H. nivea*

**Fair Isle status:** occasional; unimproved and coastal grassland including cliff-tops, known from study site; a form with smaller stature which is common on Fair Isle has been traditionally separated as *Hygrocybe nivea* (Scopoli) Murrill, 1916 but this is not considered enough to separate as a different species

**Variation:** *Hygrocybe virginea* var. *fuscescens* (Bres.) Arnolds, 1985

**Synonym:** *Hygrocybe fuscescens*

**Vernacular name:** snowy waxcap

**UK status:** occasional, much less frequent than *Hygrocybe virginea*

*Fair Isle status*: known from study site; ***new to Shetland***

**Taxon:** *Hygrocybe vitellina* (Fr.) P. Karst., 1879

**UK/regional status:** rarely reported; apparently widespread but known mainly from upland areas of northern and western Britain, often at high altitudes; four Shetland records, reported from Faeroes

**Fair Isle status:** local, possibly montane; acidic soils, upper slopes of Ward Hill

## ENTOLOMATACEAE

**Taxon:** *Entoloma anatinum* (Lasch) Donk, 1949

**Synonym:** *Leptonia anatina*

**UK status:** reported only with certainty from Scotland where not uncommon in hill pasture; three known sites, Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** local, rough grassland-heath mosaic near school

**Taxon:** *Entoloma atrocoeruleum* Noordel., 1987

**Vernacular name:** navy pinkgill

**UK status:** rarely reported but apparently widespread

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site; ***new to Shetland***

**Taxon:** *Entoloma atromarginatum* (Romagnesi & J Favre) Zerova, 1979

**Synonym:** *Leptonia atromarginata*

**UK status:** rarely reported but widespread though not common in mainland Scotland; one known site, Shetland mainland

**Fair Isle status:** scarce, local; wet heathy pasture, Ward Hill

The dark-edged gills are characteristic but see *E. caliginosum* below

**Taxon:** *Entoloma bloxamii* f. *bloxamii* (Berk. & Br.) Sacc., 1887 **prov. Red Data list**

**Vernacular name:** big blue pinkgill; Bloxam's entoloma

**UK status:** rare; UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species

**Fair Isle status:** rare, localised; coastal grassland, South Light; ***new to Shetland***

**Taxon:** *Entoloma caesiocinctum* (Kühner) Noordel., 1982

**Synonym:** *Leptonia caesiocincta*

**Vernacular name:** blue-girdled pinkgill

**UK status:** occasional but widespread, especially in upland grassland in northern and western Britain north to Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** occasional, roadside verges

**Taxon:** *Entoloma chalybaeum* var. *chalybaeum* (Pers.) Noordel., 1982

**Synonym:** *Leptonia chalybaea*

**Vernacular name:** indigo pinkgill

**UK status:** occasional but widespread, common in some areas; two known sites, Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** known from one site, heathy grassland near Bird Observatory

**Taxon:** *Entoloma clandestinum* (Fr.) Noordel., 1980

**Synonym:** *Nolanea clandestina*

**UK status:** rarely reported, mainly from Scotland; rare in Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** common throughout; *Armeria maritima* & *Plantago maritima* dominated cliff-top turf, unimproved grassland & amongst *Salix herbacea*, Ward Hill summit north flank

**Taxon:** *Entoloma conferendum* (Britzelmayr) Noordeloos, 1980

**Synonym:** *Nolanea conferenda*; *Nolanea staurospora*

**Vernacular name:** star pinkgill

**UK status:** very common, widespread; north to Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** the isle's commonest *Entoloma*; abundant throughout, cliff-top grassland of *Armeria maritima* & *Plantago maritima* coastal turf to Ward Hill summit

**Taxon:** *Entoloma corvinum* (Kühner) Noordel., 1982

**Synonym:** *Leptonia corvina*

**Vernacular name:** crow pinkgill

**UK status:** occasional, widespread; one site in Shetland, Fetlar

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site

**Taxon:** *Entoloma elodes* (Fries) P Kummer, 1871

**UK/international status:** rarely reported, most often in Scotland including Shetland; increasingly rare in northwest & central Europe from habitat loss

**Fair Isle status:** common in moorland pasture & particularly peaty marshland & mire  
The specific name is often found as 'helodes'

**Taxon:** *Entoloma exile* (Fr.) Hesler, 1967

**Synonym:** *Leptonia pyrospila*

**UK status:** rarely reported but apparently widespread; most records from Scotland north to Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** rare, roadside verges

**Taxon:** *Entoloma fernandae* (Romagnesi) Noordel., 1979

**Synonym:** *Nolanea fernandae*

**UK status:** rare, fewer than 50 records; one site in Shetland mainland

**Fair Isle status:** known from grassy heath, lower Ward Hill south flank

**Taxon:** *Entoloma formosum* (Fr.) Noordel., 1985

**UK status:** uncommonly reported but apparently widespread; perhaps more frequent in northern and western areas

**Fair Isle status:** known from coastal turf, Bunes

**Variation:** a sienna-coloured capped form has been separated out as *Leptonia fulva* P.D.Orton but is now considered the same taxon.

**Fair Isle status:** frequent, widespread; unimproved grassland & roadside verges

**Taxon:** *Entoloma griseocyaneum* (Frs) P. Kumm., 1871

**Synonym:** *Leptonia griseocyanea*

**Vernacular name:** felted pinkgill

**UK status:** rarely reported but apparently widespread; widespread in Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** known from cliff-top turf, Bunes

**Taxon:** *Entoloma hebes* (Romagn.) Trimbach, 1981

**Vernacular name:** pimple pinkgill

**UK status:** uncommonly reported but widespread throughout; fairly frequent in southern counties

**Fair Isle status:** known from grassy heath, Ward Hill south flank; ***new to Shetland***

**Taxon:** *Entoloma infula* (Fr.) Noordel., 1980

**Synonym:** *Nolanea infula*

**UK status:** uncommonly reported but apparently widespread; local but not uncommon, mainland Scotland; two known sites, Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site

**Taxon:** *Entoloma juncinum* (Kühn. & Romagn.) Noordel., 1979

**UK status:** rarely reported; three known sites, Shetland, including Foula

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site

**Taxon:** *Entoloma lampropus* (Fries) Hesler, 1967

**Synonym:** *Leptonia lampropus*

**UK status:** rare; often reported but without voucher specimens, many probably in error for other taxa

**Fair Isle status:** roadside verges, Bird Observatory to school

This species has been confused with *E. sodale* but differs in its overall blue colours

**Taxon:** *Entoloma lividocyanulum* Kühner ex Noordel., 1984

**Synonym:** *Leptonia lividocyanula*

**UK status:** rarely reported

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site; ***new to Shetland***

**Taxon:** *Entoloma ortonii* Arnolds & Noordeloos, 1979

**Synonym:** *Nolanea farinolens sensu* Orton

**UK status:** rarely reported but apparently widespread

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site; ***new to Shetland***

**Taxon:** *Entoloma papillatum* (Bres.) Dennis, 1953

**Synonym:** *Nolanea papillata*

**Vernacular name:** papillate pinkgill

**UK/regional status:** fairly common, widespread; artificial and natural grasslands north to Shetland; known from Faeroes

**Fair Isle status:** frequent, damp unimproved grassland, Ward Hill Lower Station



**Taxon:** *Entoloma porphyrophaeum* (Fr.) P. Karst., 1879

**Vernacular name:** lilac pinkgill

**UK/regional status:** occasional but widespread north to Shetland; locally common in upland pastures, especially northern and western Britain; known from Faeroes

**Fair Isle status:** common, widespread; coastal grassland, heathy pasture, cliff-top to Ward Hill Lower Station

**Taxon:** *Entoloma prunuloides* (Fr.) Quél., 1872

**Vernacular name:** mealy pinkgill

**UK/regional status:** occasional but widespread; north to Shetland; known from Faeroes

**Fair Isle status:** common, widespread; roadside verges & sheep pasture, Ward Hill Lower Station

**Variation:** *Entoloma prunuloides* var. *obscurum* Arnolds & Noordel., 2004

**Fair Isle status:** cliff-top heathy grassland, Furse; **new to Shetland**

**Taxon:** *Entoloma pseudoturci* Noordel., 1984

**UK status:** rarely reported

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site; new to Shetland

This species would be placed in *Leptonia*, if the segregate genera are accepted

**Taxon:** *Entoloma sericellum* (Fr.) P. Kumm., 1871

**Synonym:** *Leptonia sericella*

**Vernacular name:** cream pinkgill

**UK status:** not uncommon, widespread; north to Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** common; coastal heath, well-drained acid grassland, sheep pasture & moorland to Ward Hill summit

**Taxon:** *Entoloma sericeum* (Bull.) Quél., 1872

**Synonym:** *Nolanea sericea*

**Vernacular name:** silky pinkgill

**UK status:** common, widespread; north to Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** widespread throughout, often in large numbers; grazed grassland from cliff-tops to Ward Hill

*A gracile, less robust, equally common form has been segregated as var. nolaniiformis but this is now not considered significant. It is known from study site; new to Shetland*

**Variation:** *Entoloma sericeum* var. *cinereo-opacum* Noordel., 1980

**UK status:** rare, 15 UK records

**Fair Isle status:** small numbers, roadside verge near Kirk

**Taxon:** *Entoloma serrulatum* (Fr.) Hesler, 1967

**Synonym:** *Leptonia serrulata*

**Vernacular name:** blue edge pinkgill

**UK status:** common in Scotland north to Shetland; occasional to locally frequent and widespread elsewhere

**Fair Isle status:** common; heathy pastures, unimproved & coastal grassland

**Taxon:** *Entoloma sodale* Noordel., 1982

**Synonym:** *Leptonia sodale*

**UK status:** rarely reported; known from several sites in Scotland, two in Wales; none verified from England

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site; new to Shetland. Differs from *E. lampropus* with which it has been confused by the brown pileus, blue tinged stipe and non-striate, scaly flocculose pileus.

**Taxon:** *Entoloma solstitiale* (Fr.) Noordel., 1980

**Synonym:** *Nolanea solstitialis*

**UK status:** rare, fewer than 40 records; two known sites, Shetland Mainland

**Fair Isle status:** heathy grassland near Kirk

**Taxon:** *Entoloma undatum* (Gillet) M M Moser, 1978

**Synonyms:** *Eccilia undata*; *Eccilia sericeonitida*

**UK status:** rarely reported but apparently widespread

**Fair Isle status:** known from study site; **new to Shetland**

**Taxon:** *Entoloma vernum* S. Lundell, 1938

**Synonym:** *Nolanea cucullata*

**UK status:** local, mainland Scotland and Islands; three sites in Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** abundant but localised; swarms of hundreds in *Armeria maritima* & *Plantago maritima*-dominated coastal turf, Bunes

## CLAVARIACEAE

**Taxon:** *Clavaria fragilis* Holmsk., 1790

**Synonym:** *Clavaria vermicularis*

**Vernacular name:** white spindles

**UK status:** common, widespread

**Fair Isle status:** very common, widespread; coastal grassland, roadside verges & upper slopes of Ward Hill; **new to Shetland**

**Taxon:** *Clavaria fumosa* Pers., 1796

**Vernacular name:** smoky coral; smoky spindles

**UK status:** common, widespread; north to Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** localised; multiple clumps, roadside bank just south-east of North Grind

**Taxon:** *Clavulinopsis corniculata* (Fr.) Corner, 1950

**Synonym:** *Clavaria corniculata*

**Vernacular name:** meadow coral

**UK status:** common, widespread; north to Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** abundant everywhere; cliff-top turf, grassland & grassy heath to Ward Hill summit

**Taxon:** *Clavulinopsis fusiformis* (Sowerby) Corner, 1950

**Synonym:** *Clavaria fusiformis*

**Vernacular name:** golden spindles

**UK/regional status:** common, widespread; north to Shetland; known from Faeroes

**Fair Isle status:** very common throughout; acidic moorland, heathland & coastal grassland

**Taxon:** *Clavulinopsis helvola* (Pers.) Corner, 1950

**Synonym:** *Clavaria helvola*

**Vernacular name:** yellow club

**UK status:** common, widespread; north to Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** abundant throughout; unimproved grassland & particularly heath-grassland mosaics; some apparently attached to *Calluna* roots

**Taxon:** *Clavulinopsis laeticolor* (Berk. & M A Curtis) R H Petersen, 1965

**Synonyms:** *Clavaria pulchra*; *C. persimilis*

**Vernacular name:** handsome club

**UK status:** occasional, widespread

**Fair Isle status:** occasional, unimproved grassland & heath in north; *new to Shetland*

**Taxon:** *Clavulinopsis luteoalba* (Rea) Corner, 1950

**Vernacular name:** apricot club

**UK status:** common, widespread; one known Shetland site, hill pasture, Mainland

**Fair Isle status:** localised, possibly montane; heathy grassland, north flank of Ward Hill summit

Ascomycotina  
Geoglossales

#### GEOGLOSSACEAE

**Taxon:** *Geoglossum barlae* Boud., 1889

**Red List edition 1 (FRDBI)**

**UK status:** rare; vulnerable

**Fair Isle status:** rare, upper Ward Hill; *new to Shetland*

**Taxon:** *Geoglossum cookeianum* Nannf., 1942

**Vernacular name:** Cooke's earthtongue

**UK status:** widespread; known from Yell, Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** frequent, acid grassland, lower slopes of Ward Hill

**Taxon:** *Geoglossum fallax* Durand, 1908

**Vernacular name:** deceptive earthtongue

**UK status:** not uncommon on mainland Scotland north to Shetland; probably not as common as many other earth tongues

**Fair Isle status:** occasional, sometimes abundant; hundreds scattered through dry well-drained close-cropped grassland, Kenaby & infrequent, Ward Hill summit north flank

**Taxon:** *Geoglossum nigratum* (Pers.) Cooke, 1878

**UK status:** one of Britain's commonest earth tongues north to Shetland

**Fair Isle status:** scarce, mossy heath

**Taxon:** *Geoglossum starbaeckii* Nannf., 1942

**Vernacular name:** star earthtongue

**UK/international status:** widespread in Scottish Highlands; northern, Iceland, Faeroes, Germany north to Fennoscandia

**Fair Isle status:** rare, single spike on saturated soil, *Nardus stricta*-dominated acid grassland, cliff-top, Rippack; **new to Shetland**

**Taxon:** *Geoglossum umbratile* Sacc., 1878

**Vernacular name:** plain earthtongue

**UK/international status:** scarce, short poorly-drained lichen/bryophyte-rich grass in uplands; widespread, Europe & North America but critically endangered (Red List) in Bulgaria

**Fair Isle status:** scattered, mossy grassland in north; **new to Shetland**

## Helotiales

### LEOTIACEAE

**Taxon:** *Microglossum olivaceum* (Pers.) Gillet, 1879

**Red Data list; BAP species**

**Vernacular name:** olive earthtongue

**UK status:** widespread but rare, most reports from Scotland

**Fair Isle status:** known from one site; several groups of 2-3 spikes per group, *Plantago coronopus*-*Festuca rubra* coastal turf, free draining cliff-top slope, Utra Brae overlooking Shalstane; **first for Shetland, fifth Scottish record**

### **Provisional subject to verification**

1. *Hygrocybe ? saliceti-herbaceae* Kühner, 1976

**UK status:** rare; known from two sites

**Fair Isle status:** with *Salix herbacea*, montane heathy grassland & loose soil, Ward Hill summit north flank

2. *Entoloma ? caliginosum* (Romagn. & J. Favre) Bon & Courtec., 1987

**UK status:** insufficiently known

**Fair Isle status:** one record; coastal grassland, Bunes (HZ 22739 72481), 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011 – leg./det. Alison Murfitt

*Looked like Entoloma papillatum but with distinctive dark edge to the gills*

3. *Entoloma ? inutile* (Britzelm.) Noordel., 1980

**Synonym:** *Leptonia inutile*

**UK status:** rarely reported; known from one site in England, one in Scotland and 2 in Ebudes/Hebrides

**Fair Isle status:** taken at study site

4. *Entoloma ? ochromicaceum* Noordel. & Liiv, 1992

**UK status:** very rare; two records, both in 2000 (Beinn Eighe, Wester Ross & Schiehallion, Perthshire)

**Fair Isle status:** taken at study site

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### **Common names of flora**

<i>Armeria maritima</i>	thrift
<i>Calluna</i>	heather
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	red fescue
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	mat grass
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	buck's-horn plantain
<i>Plantago maritima</i>	sea plantain
<i>Salix herbacea</i>	least willow
<i>Salix repens</i>	creeping willow