Project Information for the Discomycetes ATBI Project

Project Details

Principal Investigator: Andrew N. Miller

Project Description: Inventory of Discomycetes (Fungi:Ascomycota)

Project Dates: Start Date: 4/1/2009 End Date:

Protocol:

Project Notes: Edit Note: site locations are actually one GPS reading for an entire area of samplings as indicated by the PI email comment, "We collected in the woods throughout that area and this is likely where we parked and took our GPS reading." Many of the site codes submitted had dates incorporated into them. This part of the site codes was replaced with 'Discomy' to reflect the nature of the collection target organisms.

Summary: Discomycetes represent one of the largest groups of fungi, but are also among the most poorly understood due to their small size, ephemeral nature, and lack of taxonomic understanding. These organisms occur on herbaceous and woody plant material, where they are essential in nutrient cycling and the decomposition of organic matter, as well as forming endophytic associations with plants. This inventory was the first known inventory on the diversity of discomycetes within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Over a total of 21 days were spent in the park with more than 350 collections of discomycetes being made from over 20 sites within the GSMNP. 224 of 350 collections (64%) have been identified to species representing 66 unique species. 47 of 66 species (72%) represent new park records. Products from this survey include: 1) a species checklist, 2) a georeferenced database including distribution and host data, and 3) fresh material which will be used in creating species web pages and identification guides.

Data Summary

Data Collection Year(s):

Number of Sites Sampled:	24
Number of Samplings:	39
Number of Orders Identified:	6
Number of Families Identified:	18
Number of Genera Identified:	43
Number of Species Identified:	71
Number of Specimens Identified to Species:	190
Number of Specimens not Identified to Species:	46
Total Number of Individuals Counted (actual or estimated):	236
Percentage of Major Watersheds Sampled:	24 %