

of the largest individual log. Additional calculations were made to allow for the diversity of logs. The method was applied to 47 study plots dispersed through a 150 x 150 km area of boreal forest in Finland. Data were obtained on the occurrences of 116 wood-decaying polypores, counting all sporing bodies of a single species on an individual tree as one occurrence. The field surveys were carried out 2000, 2001,

and 2003.

Possible explanatory variables were compared, and it was concluded that the abundance of common species is related to the number of downed logs, while occurrences of rarer Red-listed species was best explained by the total volume of logs – and especially the abundance of large logs. The Red-listed species were additionally affected by spatial connectivity to

adjacent old-growth forest.

It will be no surprise to experienced field mycologists to find that the best method of ensuring the continuance of Red-listed polypores is to allow the amount of large downed logs to increase through the adopted management practices. However, what is valuable is for conservationists to have a critical study such as this to cite when making management proposals.

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Funga and fungarium

Mycologists need to assert their independence from botanists, (other) microbiologists, and zoologists as a part of the long road to increased recognition amongst the life sciences. This is topic on which I have drawn attention to previously (e.g. Hawksworth 2000, 2003, 2006). One issue is to adopt a word for the fungi (including lichens) that occur in a particular area, or a major publication on those of a particular geographical region. In many cases it is possible to just use “fungi” by careful wording. I have not personally favoured the often-used “mycota” as that is the termination that indicates the rank of phylum, and the fungi are now universally accepted as a kingdom in their own right. I have consequently encouraged the use of “mycobiota” where some word was required. However, the alternative of “funga” was proposed by Gravesen (2000),

and hardly taken up until recently relaunched in the title of *Funga Nordica* (Knudsen & Vesterholt 2008) – a key work which all field mycologists will now be coming familiar with. As the term “mycology” may not be as familiar to naturalists in general as “fungi”, I now consider that “funga” has much to commend it.

In transferring the collections of the former International Mycological Institute (IMI) to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew at the end of 2009, to make the largest fungal collection in the world with some 1.25 million specimens, Spooner & Cannon (2010) introduced the term “fungarium” (pl. “fungaria”) as a counterpart to “herbarium” (a collection of dried plants). This also seems logical and surely



merits wider adoption – at least where the more encompassing “biosystematic reference collections” is not appropriate.

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Spooner B[M], Cannon P[F] (2010) World's largest collection of fungi held at Kew Gardens. *Mycologist News* 2010 (1): 8–9.