

the foray collection

Wednesday, April 14, 2009, 7:00 PM, in THE ROOMS, Andrus Voitk, Director of Foray Newfoundland & Labrador, will describe the scientific enquiries to have come out of the Foray's activities. Come to get a glimpse of what's new in Mycology, based on Newfoundland and Labrador material!

Although our purpose is to organize enjoyable mushroom forays, an interesting side product of our activity, our data and collection, has scientific value beyond our club's borders. Our collection is valued because it is highly reliable, well documented and very accessible. It has contributed significant information to mycologic research, and has been an active resource for studies in biodiversity, ecology, community ecology, mycogeography, taxonomy and discovery of new species, *inter alia* (See Figure 1).

What do those terms mean? Come and find out how species travel across continents, how new species evolve, how we are finally recognizing that although similar, many of our species differ from their European counterparts. See how a species, described over 100 years ago right here in Newfoundland has taken on a different identity with time, only to be rediscovered here again. Marvel at obviously different species that have escaped detection by even the most expert eyes. Meet the most arrogant of mycologists.

Our collection was housed at Gros Morne National Park, with Michael Burzynski as curator, as a temporary measure, while our Provincial Museum underwent rearrangement to move to The Rooms. We have worked with its curatorial staff to identify a time for transferring the collection, but to date such time has eluded us. Unfortunately, lack of space will bring an end to our present arrangement after the 2012 foray. We have had informal offers from museums of two Atlantic Provinces to take our collection, and assurance from the Curator of the National Mycological Museum in Ottawa, that it is willing to accept our collection. Our Board feels very strongly that this collection should stay in the province, and we are working with The Rooms for a solution.

This talk should open interesting new insights into the super-exciting world of mushrooms. It should also explain why people primarily interested in picking mushrooms for their moose stew, should feel concerned about the fate of a dusty old collection of dried inedible fungi.

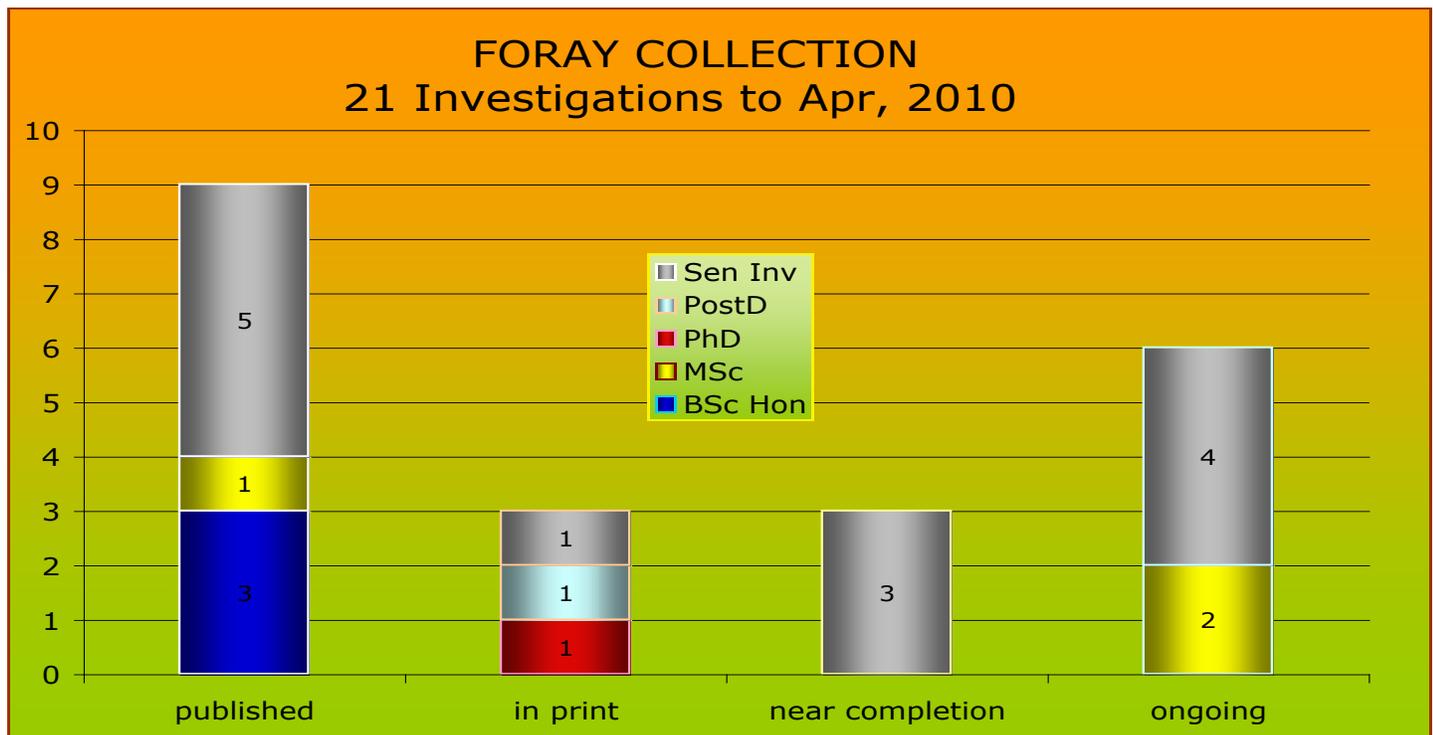


Figure 1. To date, our material has contributed to 21 scientific studies, 9 of them published, 3 in print and 3 near completion; we are involved with 6 ongoing projects, aimed toward eventual publication. Primary investigators of these studies come from all academic levels: Honours BSc, MSc, PhD, postdoctoral and senior scientist. Come out and hear about all 21 in one hour!