

***Stemonitopsis typhina* (F.H. Wigg.) Nann.-Bremek. – AEB SM26 (= PDD 110406)**

Collection site #5 at the Ohakune NZ Fungal Foray: The following site description was prepared by Nick (DOC worker who helped organize certain aspects of the foray).

Tongariro National Park – Marshall's Road. This forest is dominated by tawa, rimu, matai, hinau, rata and many other species of lowland broadleaf forest trees. A small area of kahikatea is present. Access is from the end of Marshall's Road which is a no-exit road off Old Station Road. The historic old coach road occurs in this area. This road was a cobblestone road that connected the two sections of the main trunk line (railroad) before it was completed. The Ohakune community want to restore this road as an historic tourist track.

Substrate: decaying decorticated wood

Collection date: 4 April 2005

Collector: Ann Bell

Identifier: Dan Mahoney

Voucher materials: dried herbarium material [AEB SM26 (= PDD 110406)] accompanied by one Shear's mounting fluid (SMF) heated slide; in-situ views of fresh fruiting bodies on the wood and microscopic views of sporangial details; Dan's brief comments.

Brief comments: Only a small fruiting was found (<25 sporangia). Two or three small clusters each emerged from a silvery hypothallus. Thin blackish sporangiophores were as long as or slightly longer than the cylindrical sporangia themselves and were covered by a conspicuous silvery peridium. Peridium somewhat iridescent; fairly persistent with brownish spore patches evident where irregular portions of the peridium had disappeared. Columella extending nearly the entire length of the sporangium with numerous dark branching, rebranching and anastomosing capillitial threads emerging in 3-dimensions along its length. According to Stephenson 2003 (Myxomycetes of New Zealand), a partial surface net is present in some species of the genus, at least in the lower portions of the sporangium, but this was not seen here. Spores brown to violet brown in mass, globose, mostly 7.5-8(-8.5) μm (n=10) in diam, faintly punctate with a few obvious larger dark warts (or wart clusters) on each spore.

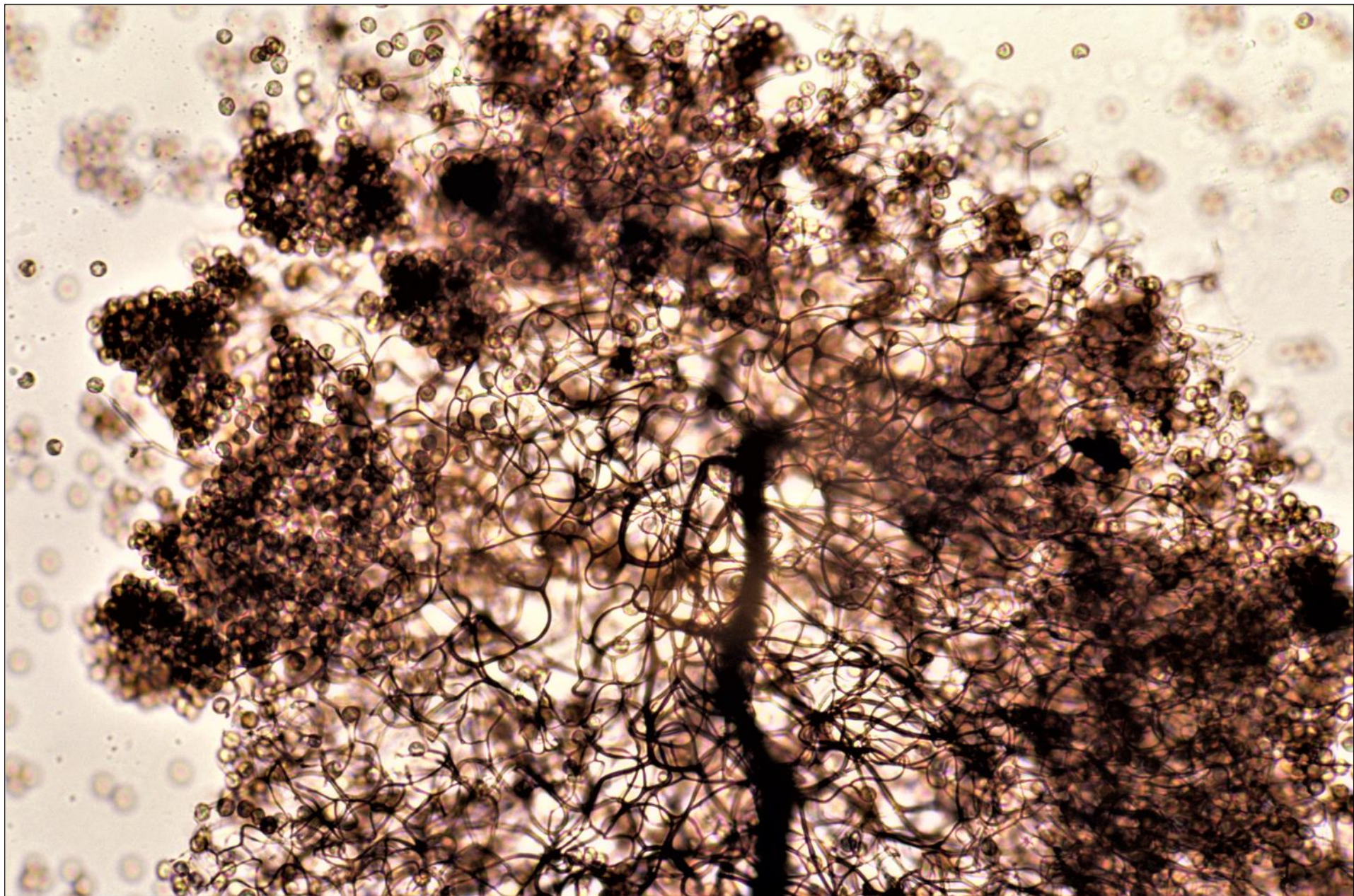


← 1667 μm →

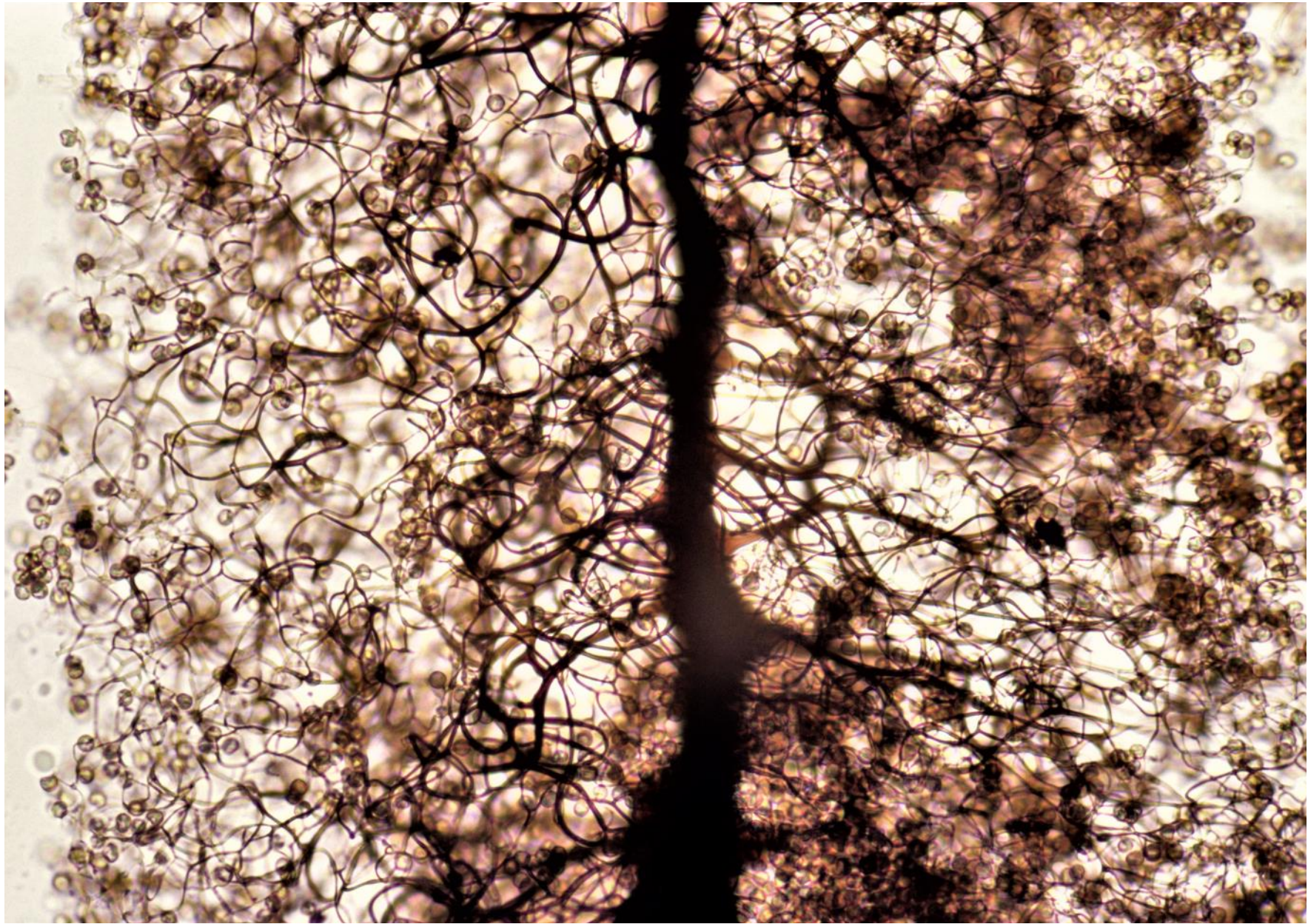
In-situ view of fresh mature fruiting bodies on decaying wood. Note the silvery stalks & speckled iridescent membranous peridia – the latter, here seen persisting almost entirely, but more often disappearing in patches to expose the underlying capillitium and brown spore mass.



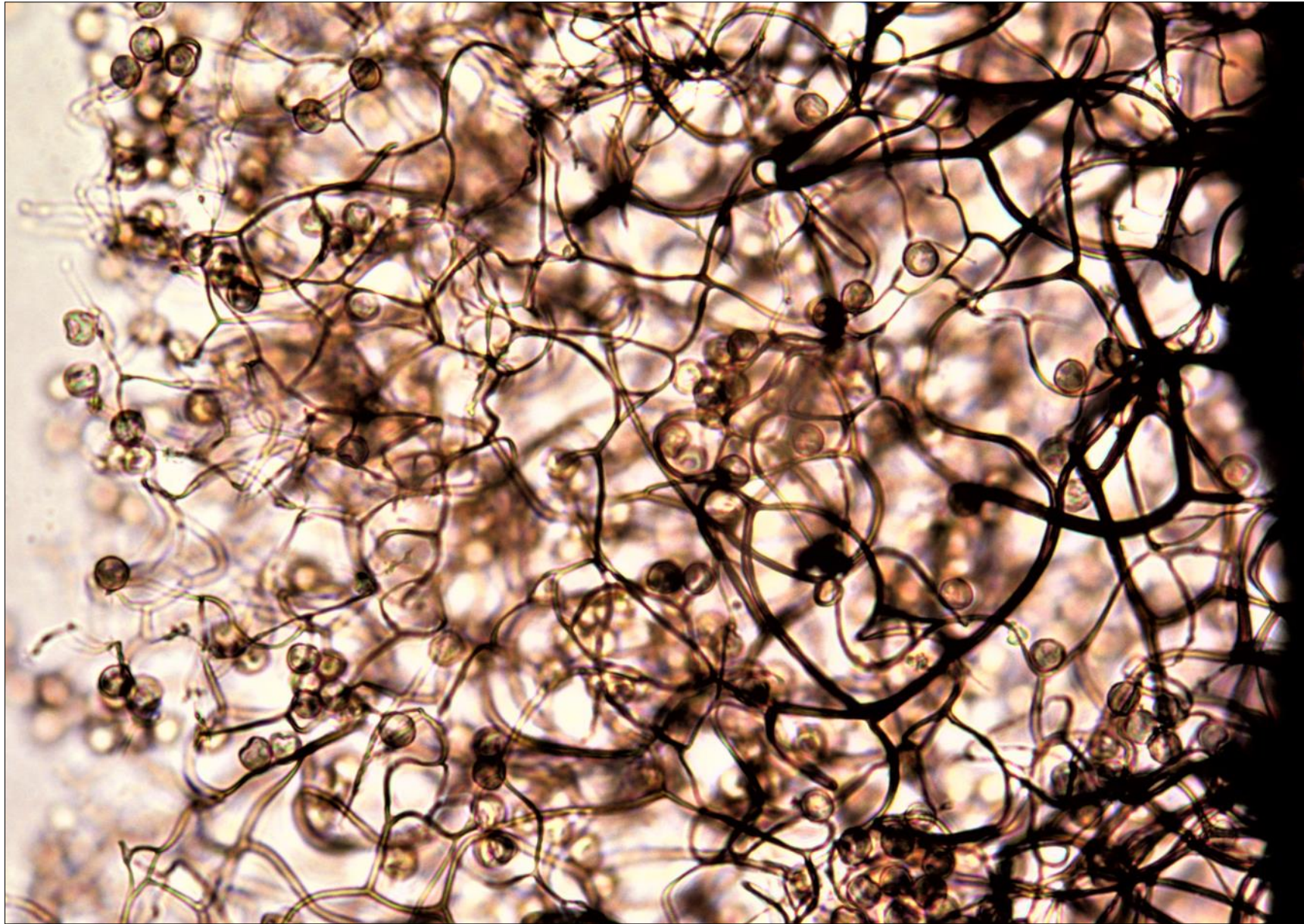
Closeup of fruiting bodies on the previous page, but a different focus. Note the evanescent patches of the peridium and the exposed brown spore mass beneath.



Uppermost sporangium with spores mostly shed, showing the central columella and capillitial threads arising from it. This photo and those on the next 2 pages represent different views of the same sporangium mounted in 70 % EtOH, irrigated with SMF & heated.



Middle sporangium view from the same sporangium on the previous page (and same magnification), showing the central columella and capillitial threads arising from it.



Middle sporangium view from the same sporangium on the previous page, showing a higher magnification of the columella (far right) and the capillitial threads arising from it.



Capillitial threads & spores from the same sporangium seen on the previous 3 pages, but photographed under the X100 objective. Note the occasional cluster of dark warts (arrowed).