

Spongy Sooty Mold

Scorias spongiosa (Schweinitz) Fries



OVERALL: Cascade Trail, PVSP, 4/14/2011, R. Solem.
 OVERALL: Rockburn Branch Park, 10/12/2013, L. Hunt.
 OVERALL (on leaf): Wincopin Trail, 9/14/2014, R. Orr.
 BEECH BLIGHT APHID (*Grylloprociphilus imbricator*): Rockburn Branch Park, 10/12/2013, L. Hunt.

Spongy Sooty Mold

[Scorias spongiosa](#)
 Capnodiaceae

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ID: Sooty fungus on American beech (straw-colored in fall).

Habitat: American beech trees only.

Fruiting body: “*Scorias spongiosa* is a specialist and grows exclusively on the honeydew formed by colonies of the beech blight aphid, *Grylloprociphilus imbricator*. This aphid is found only on one host plant, the American beech tree, *Fagus grandifolia*, where it congregates on branches and twigs, creating copious amounts of honeydew that drip onto vegetation below. The large quantity of honeydew enables this fungus to grow to a large size, much bigger than other sooty mould fungi, which produce only a thin black layer on the surface of leaves. On tree trunks this fungus has been known to grow into a mass of hyphae as big as a football, but it is more usual for the agglomeration on branches or twigs to reach a diameter of about fifteen centimetres” [5.9]”*

Spores: Yellowish-hyaline, 3-septa.

Frequency: Fairly common..

Locations: CASCT, DANPV, GONRA, MCHPV, RKBPR, ROBNC, SAVMT, WINTR.

Notes: Mycobank 217044. See *Wikipedia* reference for more about life cycle.

Synonym: *Botrytis spongiosa*

References: * http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scorias_spongiosa
http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms_fungi/sep2007.html, BBB 439. BBH285.