

**F-A2 Olive Earthtongue *Microglossum olivaceum***  
**SPECIES STATEMENT**

**1. Current Status**

- 1.1 This is one of only two British *Microglossum* species. It is a fungus of grassland habitats, lawns and deciduous woods. Little is known about its ecology, but it is believed to be saprophytic on mosses; more research is needed to confirm this. It seems to favour short turf habitats. Several of the woodland records have been under yew trees (*Taxus baccata*). Its fruiting bodies appear relatively reliably between September and November but have recently been found in January.

**2. Current factors causing loss or decline**

- 2.1 Agricultural improvement of grasslands is a direct threat to *M. olivaceum*, e.g. through ploughing or application of fertilisers and herbicides.
- 2.2 Scrub encroachment.
- 2.3 Pressure from built development.

**3. Current action**

- 3.1 In Monmouthshire this fungus is a key species in the Grassland Fungi project funded by the CCW Species Challenge Fund.

**4. Target**

- 4.1 Maintain the range of olive earthtongue in Monmouthshire.

**5. Proposed Action**

- 5.1 Continue surveying known sites and searching for new sites - 3 year project finishing in 2009. Lead Partner: Gwent Fungus Group.

**6. Links with other action plans**

- Species rich grassland and floodplain pastures
- Pink waxcap