

Checklist of fungi from the first Richard P. Korf Memorial North American Ascomycete Foray and Purchase Knob AscoBlitz

D.S. Newman¹, R.A. Cronic, E.D. Dombkowski, C.B. Dooley

Abstract

Held in honor of legendary Cornell discomycetologist and Mycotaxon co-founder, the Richard P. Korf Memorial North American Ascomycete Foray (colloquially referred to as “The Korf Foray”) and Purchase Knob AscoBlitz are believed to represent the first ascomycete-focused forays ever conducted in the United States. Modeled after the meetings of the Pacific Northwest Key Council and the ascomycete field workshops of northern Europe, both events took place in mid-August of 2023 in western North Carolina, at the Highlands Biological Station and Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center, respectively. Each were made possible by generous contributions from the Korf family and Discover Life in America. The Korf Foray attracted a total of 22 participants (including four scholarship recipients) from the United States and Germany, with seven continuing on to the AscoBlitz, resulting in the generation of approximately 270 fungal records supported by 228 vouchered collections. Among these are represented at least 92 genera, 66 families, 31 orders and 12 classes within the Ascomycota and Entomophthoromycota. The majority of collections will be deposited at the Cornell Plant Pathology Herbarium (CUP), with specimen data available in an online checklist (<https://is.gd/kfpkab2023list>) which will be updated periodically. Corresponding macro- and micro-photography are available on iNaturalist (<https://is.gd/kfpkab2023inat>), linked from each collection record in the checklist.

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¹ Corresponding Author: newmy51@gmail.com

ORCID: 0000-0002-5400-3691