

What is FunDive?

It is Biodiversa+ funded project in which we work to put fungi biodiversity on the map to enhance European conservation efforts.

Why does it matter?

Fungi are generally understudied. Their global distribution patterns are not well understood. Even in Europe, where there has been centuries of fungal research, the distribution of many species remain unknown. However, this information is crucial for effective conservation practices.

Why it's worth joining?

Fungi are essential for our ecosystems but are often neglected in conservation efforts. We would like to change it.

JOIN US!



<https://fun-dive.eu/en/get-involved/>



FunDive



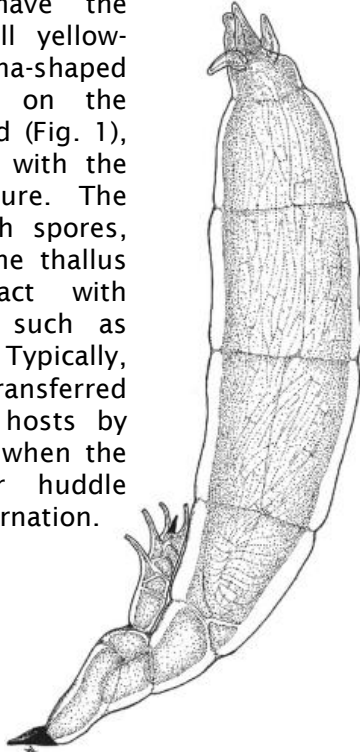
Monitoring and mapping
fungal diversity for
nature conservation

Hesperomyces



What is *Hesperomyces*?

Hesperomyces - green beetlehangers - have the appearance of small yellow-greenish banana-shaped protrusions (thalli) on the outside of a ladybird (Fig. 1), which can be seen with the naked eye if mature. The thallus is filled with spores, which eject when the thallus comes into contact with another surface - such as another ladybird. Typically, *Hesperomyces* is transferred between individual hosts by touch, for example when the ladybirds mate or huddle together during hibernation.



LEARN MORE ABOUT
HESPEROMYCES
FROM OUR BOOKLET

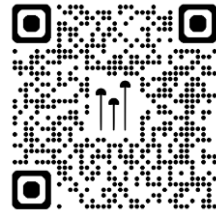


https://fun-dive.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Hesperomyces_Booklet_v1.2.pdf

Why is this genus interesting for FunDive?

As a fungus on an insect, *Hesperomyces* often falls between two stools: entomologists don't collect fungi, and mycologists don't collect insects. In the past, it was thought all *Hesperomyces* infecting ladybirds was just one single species, but recent DNA-work revealed that most ladybirds have their own specialized species of *Hesperomyces*! To uncover this diversity and to map the ecology of the fungus and the ladybirds, we need more information through samples and observations.

How to engage?



<https://fun-dive.eu/get-involved/how-to-engage/>

FOLLOW DETAILED
STEP-BY-STEP
JOINING GUIDE

- Join the *Citizens for FunDive* project using the PlutoF GO app or register in iNaturalist
- Take photos and notes
- Register your specimen in PlutoF GO or iNaturalist app
- Upload it to FunDive dataportal
- Collect the infected ladybird
- Send it to us

How to document your findings?

- If possible, take more than one photo
- Photograph fungi in their natural habitat
- As the ladybird host needs to be identifiable, don't zoom in too much on the fungi
- Be sure all other details are recorded (place you found it, time you found it, who found it).
- Take a photo of the habitat in which the specimen was found



VIDEO ON
HESPEROMYCES
AND COLLECTING
LADY BIRDS

Send us your specimens for further analysis

If you want to not just upload a photo observation, but also send us the specimen itself, great! If possible, put the specimen in ethanol in a plastic container such as an Eppendorf tube. Either 70% or 96% is fine.

Please ship them to:

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