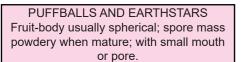
## Fungi of Adelaide and the Hills

Fungi play important roles in all ecosystems from our backyards and school grounds to forests, heath and deserts. Many fungi are recyclers, helping break down dead plant and animal material and putting nutrients back into the soil. Many others form essential partnerships with trees and other plants with the fungi collecting nutrients and water from the soil and passing them to roots. In return the plants provide energy-giving sugars. Fungi may be present all year round but are most common in autumn and winter, particularly following rain. It is important that we don't damage fungi otherwise they can't continue their important roles.

We know very little about the edibility or toxicity of native fungi. There is no safe way you can tell which ones are safe to eat. DO NOT EAT ANY FUNGUS FROM THE WILD. If you touch a fungus, always wash your hands afterwards.

#### **BASIDIOMYCETES**

(fungi that produce their spores on club-shaped structures called basidia)







Starts as an onion-shaped ball with a pointed tip. Outer layer splits, peeling back into a star-shape 'puffball'. If touched, spores will puff through a central hole.

#### **JELLIES** Fruit-body gelatinous, brain- or blobshaped, a disc or coral- or club-shaped.

Yellow Brain Tremella mesenterica



Yellow intestine-like fungus. It is parasitic on another fungus growing on the wood.

#### **EARTHBALLS**

Fruit-body usually spherical; spore mass powdery when mature; upper surface breaks down or splits open irregularly.

Dye Ball Pisolithus arhizus



Large rounded fungus looking like horse droppings. When mature, the 'skin' breaks down and the powdery spores blow away. It has been used as a dye.

#### **CLUBS AND CORALS** Simple club or branched; texture fleshy; often brightly coloured.

**Coral Fungus** 



Looks like coral or cauliflower.

#### **TOOTH FUNGI**

Fruit-body with teeth, pegs or spines under cap, or a bracket or flat; stem present or absent.

Wood Hedgehog Hydnum repandum



Cream to light orange-brown cap with brittle spines

#### SOFT PORE FUNGI

Fruit-body with pores under cap; usually with a central stem; texture fleshy or soft.

#### Weeping Bolete INTRODUCED Suillus granulatus



Orange-brown to brown-yellow cap. Sponge-like underneath. Stem is pale yellow, often with brown raised dots near the top. Grows under pine trees.

#### Black Tooth



Shallow funnel-shaped leathery fungus. Dark grey cap with white edge. Tiny 'teeth' under cap with black stem.

## SMOOTH OR WRINKLED FUNGI

Fruit-body with smooth or wrinkled surface under cap or bracket; stem present (rarely) or absent.

#### Hairy Curtain Crust Stereum hirsutum



Yellow to orange shelf-like fungus, hairy on top, wavy edges and a leathery feel. A wood rotter

#### **TOUGH PORE FUNGI**

Fruit-body with pores under cap, bracket or flat with pored surface; texture rubbery, leathery or woody.

#### Scarlet Bracket



Fan-shaped scarlet fungus. Looks like thick shelves. Was used by Aboriginal groups for its antibacterial properties. Recycles dead logs and branches.



A shelf-like, variably coloured, often striped fungus. Grows on dead logs, branches, wooden fence posts.

#### BIRDS' NEST FUNGI Fruit-body small, cup-shaped with tiny 'eggs'; often on wood or litter.

### Bird's Nest



Grey to greyish-yellow. The 'eggs', which contain spores, are hurled from the 'nest' when hit by raindrops.

#### LIFE MODE

#### Mycorrhizal

has a symbiotic relationship with a living plant



#### **Saprotrophic**

breaks down plant and animal material



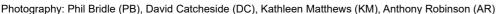
## **Parasitic**

takes nutrients from a living plant/animal



Known to be poisonous





This identification chart is a collaborative project between Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges and the Adelaide Fungal Studies Group.

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#### **BASIDIOMYCETES**

(fungi that produce their spores on club-shaped structures called basidia)

#### GILLED FUNGI

Fruit-body with gills under cap, usually with a stem.



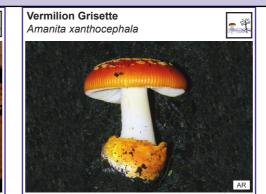
nous. Large fungus with squarish cap. Cap and stem of young specimens turn yellow if scratched. Has a phenolic/carbolic smell.



oisonous. Large scarlet fungus with white warts on cap and frilly ring on the stem. Traditionally used to attract and kill flies. Often grows under pines.



A deadly poisonous fungus. Should never be touched or eaten. Greenish cap, distinctive ring on stem. Grows under oak trees.



Warty fungus with a yellow to orange cap and no ring on the stem. Look for orange around base of stem. Grows around Eucalyptus trees.



Although this looks like fungus - it is not. It is a lichen (an essential partnership between a fungus and an alga). Grows on bare soil.

#### **GILLED FUNGI**

Fruit-body with gills under cap, usually with a stem.



A large fungus with an orange to brown cap and a ring on its stem. Forms colourful clusters on dead logs, stumps and at the base of trees.



Green cap and mustard yellow stem. Green is not a common colour in fungi



First emerges from the ground as a white scaly cylinder, the cap opens up, becoming bell-shaped. The gills gradually turn to black liquid. It was used as writing ink.



Bright purple fungus that turns slightly brown as it ages. can be found under Eucalyptus trees.

# Little Bleeder Mycena kuurkacea

Small brown fungus with cone-shaped cap. When stem is broken it bleeds a clear red liquid. Grows on dead wood and bark

#### **GILLED FUNGI**

Fruit-body with gills under cap, usually with a stem.



inkish brown to cream cap. Grows near rotting animals or bones - can sometimes grow out of decomposing animal bodies. Aminophilum means 'ammonia lover'.

## Pixie's Parasol Mycena interrupta



A rare fungus in South Australia. Blue cap with a white stem. Grows on dead logs and tree trunks.



Purple, slightly dish-shaped caps. Gills are mustard yellow. The stem breaks like chalk.

#### **STINKHORNS**

Fruit-body a cage, egg, sea-star or phalloid (contained within an egg at first); spore mass slimy, often foul-smelling.



Bright red fungus. Looks like a starfish on a white stalk. Slimy and smells like rotting meat which attracts flies.



A white smelly fungus that grows like a web in the shape of a cage. Can detach from its base and roll along the ground.

## **ASCOMYCETES**

(fungi that produce their spores in sacs called asci)

> CUPS AND DISCS Fruit-body a cup or disc; usually small.



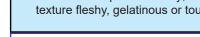
Bright orange, wavy discs that look like an orange peel.

#### HARD DISCS, CUSHIONS AND BALLS Fruit-body disc-, cushion- or ball-shaped; hard; often with small dots on surface.



A hard, button-like, white-grey fungus dotted with tiny star-shaped holes. Spores are released through these holes. The fungus grows on marsupial dung.

#### Pin-shaped fruit body; texture fleshy, gelatinous or tough.





Yellow to green gelatinous fungus with a rounded 'cap' on a stem.

