Fungi *of the Southern Otway Region*

Welcome to the Kingdom Fungi! The Southern Otways region is home to a wide and fascinating diversity of fungi.

The fungi shown in this guide were recorded during Southern Otway Landcare Network (SOLN) field trips in autumn 2009-2011. Fungi were surveyed in a variety of habitats including wet forest, cool temperate rainforest, riparian forest, damp heath scrub, coastal tussock grasslands, as well as a *Pinus radiata* plantation.

Many hundreds, possibly thousands more fungal species exist in the Southern Otways and a selection of fungi field guides are listed below to assist you further with identifications.

Fungus identification

In order to accurately identify fungi, one must first be familiar with the major field characteristics of the various parts of a fungus fruiting body (i.e. features that are visible to the naked eye). The accompanying diagram will help you recognise the major parts.

All living organisms have a scientific name composed of two words, genus followed by species. Many also have common names. Fungus identification to species level often requires examination of microscopic structures such as spores. Therefore, some of the images in this guide were only identifiable to genus level. Keep in mind that it's usually not possible to identify fungi from images alone. The most accurate and efficient way to identify fungi to species level is through taxonomic keys which provide written descriptions of the diagnostic features. You can also further your identification skills by participating in the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Fungi Group or Fungimap forays.

Edible & poisonous fungi

Many people enjoy collecting wild edible fungi, but be aware that knowledge about edibility of Australian fungi is scant and deadly species are known to exist in Australia. Many cases of poisonings are reported each year, including fatalities. Despite the myriad of folklore 'rules', there are NO rules of thumb to identify the edibility or toxicity of a species. Most poisonous fungi cannot be detoxified by cooking, drying, freezing, or other treatments. The only way to avoid poisoning is to avoid eating toxic species. In the event of a poisoning or suspected poisoning (as some species have delayed symptoms), contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Please remember that it is illegal to collect fungi from public land without a written permit.

CONTACTS

Victorian Poisons Info Centre		
(emergency number)	**13 11 26**	**www.austin.org.au/poisons**
Southern Otway Landcare Network	5327 6904	www.soln.org
Fungimap	9252 5374	www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap
Field Naturalists Club of Victoria	9877 9860	www.fncv.org.au
Department of Sustainability & Environment	136 186	www.dse.vic.gov.au
Department of Primary Industries	136 186	www.dpi.vic.gov.au

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Australian National Botanic Gardens	www.anbg.gov.au/fungi/
CSIRO Fungibank	www.fungibank.csiro.au/
Interactive Catalogue of Australian Fungi	
www.rbg.vic.gov.au/dbpages/cat/index.php/fungicatalogue	
Atlas of Living Australia	www.ala.org.au/
Mykoweb	www.mykoweb.com/
Australian fungi blog	australianfungi.blogspot.com/

Selected Victorian Fungus Field Guides (available from Fungimap website)

Grey, P. & Grey, E. (2005). *Fungi Down Under*. Fungimap, Melbourne.

McCann, I.R. (2003). *Australian fungi illustrated*. Macdown Productions, Vermont.

Fuhrer, B. A. (2005). *A Field Guide to Australian Fungi*. Bloomings Books, Melbourne.

Young A. M. (2005). *A Field Guide to the Fungi of Australia*. New South Wales University Press, Sydney.

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Cover image: Yellow-Stemmed Mycena (*Mycena epipterygia*) is a cosmopolitan and saprobic species found in a variety of Otways forest types.
It has a cucumber-like odour when stems are bruised.

Fungi *of the Southern Otway Region*

Fungi

of the Southern Otway Region

Southern Otway Landcare Network

Colac Otway SHIRE *Naturally Progressive*

CORANGAMITE CMA

Agarics

Amanita ananiceps group
GILL M

Amanita farinacea group
GILL M

Amanita muscaria
Fly Agaric *
GILL M

Amanita xanthocephala
Vermilion Grisette *
GILL M

Armillaria luteobubalina
Australian Honey Fungus *
GILL P S

Austropaxillus infundibuliformis
Funnel Pax
GILL S M

Bolbitius vitellinus
Egg-Yolk Fieldcap
GILL S

Clitocybe paraditopa
Funnel Cap
GILL S

Coprinellus disseminatus
Fairy Bonnets
GILL S

Coprinus comatus
Lawyer's Wig
GILL S

Cortinarius austrocinnabarinus
Cortinar
GILL M

Cortinarius rotundisporus
Elegant Blue Webcap *
GILL M

Agarics

Cortinarius alboviolaceus
Cortinar
GILL M

Cortinarius archeri
Emperor Cortinar
GILL M

Cortinarius austroalbidus
Australian White Webcap *
GILL M

Cortinarius sinapicolor
Slimy Yellow Cortinar
GILL M

Cortinarius sp.
Cortinar
GILL M

Crepidotus variabilis
GILL S

Dermocybe austroveneta
Green Skinhead *
GILL M

Dermocybe sp.
GILL M

Gymnopilus junonius
Spectacular Rustgill *
GILL S

Hygrocybe sp.
Waxgill
GILL S

Hygrocybe sp.
Waxgill
GILL S

Hygrocybe miniata group
Waxgill
GILL S

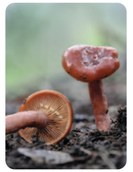
Agarics

Hypholoma australe
GILL S

Hypholoma brunneum
Brown Tuft
GILL S

Hypholoma fasciculare
Sulphur Tuft
GILL S

Lactarius deliciosus
Saffron Milk Cap
GILL M



Lactarius eucalypti
Eucalypt Milk Cap
GILL M

Lepista nuda
Wood Blewitt *
GILL S

Macrolepiota clelandii
Parasol Mushroom
GILL S

Marasmius alveolaris
GILL S

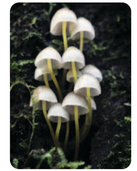
Marasmiellus affixus
Little Stinker
GILL S

Marasmius elegans
Velvet Parachute *
GILL S

Marasmius oreades
Fairy Ring Champignon *
GILL S

Mycena cystidiosa
Tall Mycena
GILL S

Agarics



Mycena epipterygia
Yellow-Stemmed Mycena
GILL S

Mycena interrupta
Pixie's Parasol *
GILL S

Mycena kuurkacea
Bleeding Mycena
GILL S

Mycena sp.
GILL S

Mycena sp.
GILL S

Mycena sp.
GILL S

Mycena subgalericulata
GILL S

Mycena viscidocruenta
Ruby Bonnet *
GILL S

Omphalotus nidiformis
Ghost Fungus *
GILL S P

Psathyrella aff. pennata
GILL S

Psathyrella asperospora
GILL S

Psilocybe subaeruginosa
Blue-Staining Psilocybe
GILL S

Agarics / Boletes / Leathers

Russula clelandii
GILL M

Boletellus emodensis
Shaggy Cap
PORE M

Podoscypha petalodes
Rosette Fungus
LEATHER S

Russula persanguinea
GILL M

Boletellus obscurecoccineus
Rhubarb Bolete *
PORE M

Stereum hirsutum group
Hairy Curtain Crust *
LEATHER S

Xerula australis group
Rooting Shank *
GILL S

Suillus granulatus
Slippery Jack
PORE M

Stereum ostrea
Golden Curtain Crust *
LEATHER S

Schizophyllum commune
Splitgill *
GILL SP

Fistulinella mollis
Marshmallow Bolete
PORE M

Hyphodontia sp.
LEATHER S

Jellies / Corals / Lichens

Calocera sinensis group
Pretty Horn
JELLY S

Tremella mesenterica group
Yellow Brain *
JELLY S

Clavaria amoena
Yellow Club Coral Fungus
CORAL S

Heterotextus peziziformis
Golden Jelly Bells
JELLY S

Mucronella pendula
Icicle *
CORAL S

Artomyces austropiperatus
Peppery Coral Fungus
CORAL S

Pseudohydnum gelatinosum
Toothed Jelly *
JELLY S

Clavaria miniata
Flame Fungus
CORAL S

Baeomyces heteromorphus
LICHEN Y

Tremella fuciformis
White Brain *
JELLY S

Ramaria ochraceosalmonicolor
CORAL M

Lichenomphalia chromacea
Yellow Navel *
LICHEN Y

Polypores / Chantarelles / Stinkhorns / Discs

Panellus pusillus
Little Ping-Pong Bat *
PORE S

Piptoporus australiensis
Curry Punk *
PORE P

Craterellus cornucopioides
Horn of Plenty *
GILL M

Fistulina hepatica
Beefsteak Fungus *
PORE SP

Rigidoporus laetus
PORE P

Cantharellus concinnus
Chantarelle
GILL M

Fomitopsis lilacinogilva
Lilac Shelf Fungus
PORE P

Ryvardenia campyla
Weeping Polypore
PORE S

Ileodictyon gracile
Smooth Cage *
CAGE S

Ganoderma australe
PORE P

Trametes versicolor
Rainbow Fungus
PORE S

Poronia erici
Small Dung Button *
DISC S

Cups / Discs / Clubs / Pins

Aleuria aurantia
Orange Peel Fungus
CUP S

Bisporella citrina
DISC S

Cordyceps gunnii
Dark Vegetable Caterpillar *
CLUB P

Peziza repanda
Spreading Brown Cup Fungus
CUP S

Chlorociboria aeruginascens group
Blue Green Stain Fungus
DISC S

Xylaria castorea
Dead Man's Fingers
CLUB S

Ascocoryne sarcoides
Purple Jelly Disc *
DISC S

Cudoniella pezizoidea
DISC S

Xylaria hypoxylon
Candle Snuff Fungus
CLUB S

Scutellinia scutellata
Eyelash Pixie Cup
DISC S

Discinella terrestris
Yellow Earth Buttons
DISC S

Leotia lubrica
Jelly Baby *
PIN S

Puffballs / Earthstars / Tooth Fungi / Slime Moulds

Scleroderma cepa
Earthball
PUFFBALL M

Hydnum repandum
Hedgehog Fungus
TOOTH M

Tubifera ferruginosa
Slime Mould
MYXO S

Lycoperdon pyriforme
Pear-Shaped Puffball
PUFFBALL S

Sarcodon sp.
TOOTH M

Fuligo septica
Dog Vomit Slime Mould *
MYXO S

Lycoperdon sp.
Puffball
PUFFBALL S

Phellodon niger
TOOTH M

Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa
Icicle Fairy Fans
MYXO S

Geastrum triplex
Collared Earthstar
EARTHSTAR S

Mycoacia subceracea
Golden Splash Tooth *
TOOTH S

Lycogala epidendrum
Wolfs Milk *
MYXO S

Fungal Nutrition

Fungi can be divided into three categories based on how they obtain their nutrition:

1. Most fungi are **saprobic** (saprotrophic) and decompose dead organic matter. They can break down lignin, cellulose and chitin and you'll find them on rotting logs, leaf litter and other organic material.
2. Some fungi are **parasitic** and obtain nutrition from other living organisms, with no benefit to the host. You'll find them on living plants and other fungi, while some specialised groups parasitise invertebrates and other animals.
3. **Mycorrhizal** fungi form symbiotic relationships with living organisms of benefit to both. The hyphae of these fungi form mutually beneficial relationships with the rootlets of plants.

A further symbiosis is that of lichens which is a relationship between a mycobiont (fungus) and a photobiont (an alga or cyanobacterium). Lichens are classified as fungi and two are included in this guide.

These modes of fungal nutrition assist us in identification as particular species are associated with certain habitats or plant species. Nutrition modes are indicated by the following symbols: **M** (mycorrhizal), **S** (saprobic), **P** (parasitic) or **Y** (symbiotic).

Slime Moulds

Another unusual group is the Myxomycota or slime moulds. Slime moulds are not fungi but occupy a kingdom of their own, the Protista. Slime moulds are included in this guide as they've historically been adopted by mycologists, occur in Otway habitats and often arouse interest due to their bright colours and bizarre forms.

Fungal Habitats

Fungi are found in a huge diversity of habitats within the Otways including various forest types, woodlands, heathlands, scrub, grasslands, parks and gardens, and even in sand dunes. Fungi will grow on a variety of substrates such as soil, leaf litter, living or dead wood, animal scats, and other fungi. The type of substrate where each species is usually found is indicated with a colour code: soil , wood , dung or invertebrate .

Fungimap

The Fungimap project is mapping 115 target species that are easily recognised in the field. Those images in this guide that are target species are indicated by an asterisk (*). You may like to contribute your records of target species to the Fungimap project - for record sheets and further information see the Fungimap website.