MMS Rare Funga Pamphlets

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Rare Fungi

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2. Black Staining Polypore (*Meripilus sumstinei*)
3. False Witch's Cap (*Caulorhiza hygrophoroides*)
4. Hairy Pea Truffle (*Endogone pisiformis*)
5. *Holawaya mucida*
6. *Hapalopilus (Aurantiporus) croceus*
7. Irregular Earth Tongue (Neolecta irregularis)
8. *Pluteus mammillatus*
9. Purple Fairy Club (*Alloclavaria purpurea*)
10. Round Spored Gyromitra (*Gyromitra sphaerospora*)
11. Shaggy Bracket (*Inonotus hispidus*)
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13. Umbrella Polypore (*Polypora umbellatus*)
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Other

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MINNESOTA MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Since 1899

Anemone Cup

Dumontinia tuberosa

Description

This cup-shaped mushroom has a smooth upper surface that flattens with age. It’s key characteristic is a wrinkled, long stem that roots into the ground and attaches to a hard, black ball (sclerotium).

When & Where

This mushroom often grows near wood anemone, hence the name. Earlier in the season, look in moist deciduous woods, maybe near streams or floodplains.

What else could it be

Make sure to dig to find the rooting stem and the sclerotium. If you don’t, it is likely another brown cup like *Peziza phylogena*.

Black Staining Polypore

Meripilus sumstinei


Photo by Annie Weissman

Description

These grow in large clusters at the base of trees with multiple broad caps that have zoned color with radial streaks. The caps start white and becomes more brown with maturity. They get their name from the characteristic black bruising that happens from handling.

When & Where

Look at the bases of hardwoods in the summer and fall, especially oaks.


Photo by Zoe Folkert

What else could it be

From far away it could be similar to Hen of the Woods (*Grifola frondosa*) but *Meripilus* has larger caps, smaller pores and will discolor black.

False Witch’s Cap

Caulorhiza hygrophoroides

Description

The most important feature is its solid stem that twists and roots into the ground. It also has a brick-red cap.

What else could it be

If you pluck or cut this mushroom, you will miss the most distinguishing factor: it’s radicating stem. At first it might look similar to some wax caps, but the rooting stem is distinctive.

When & Where

The ecology of this mushroom is unclear. It has been found in urban, disturbed areas and in mature forests, possibly on buried wood. Most observations are from springtime.

Hairy Pea Truffle

Endogone pisiformis

Description

The fruiting body of the Hairy Pea Truffle is very small, a few mm up to 2-3cm. They are a yellow-orange and can be spherical, lobed or elongate.


Photo by Connor Dooley


Photo by Tom Bigelow

When & Where

These grow from humus rich soils, leaf mold or in mosses.

What else could it be

These tiny friends might look like slime mold or the beginning stages of an orange jelly, however those are more common on wood.

Hapalopilus (Aurantiporus) croceus

Description

This orange polypore has a felt-like cap, fruity aroma and stains red/purple in KOH. It is listed as vulnerable and can fruit repeatedly from same site.

Photo by Hamilton Turner

Photo by Noah Siegel

What else could it be

The structure is similar to Chicken of the Woods but with more even coloration, a fuzzy cap and its cap doesn’t overlap. The KOH staining is also distinctive.

When & Where

This is a white rot fungus so is often on mature oak trees that are dead or dying in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere.

Holwaya mucida

Description

This fungus has two distinct stages. The asexual stage or anamorph (right) is shaped like lollipop with white slightly slimy tip. The sexual stage or telemorph (below) flattens to a slightly gummy black disc with short stalk.


Photo by Иван Матершев


Photo by Tom Bigelow

When & Where

Take a close look at moss-covered dead logs in the summer and fall

What else could it be

The disc-shaped sexual stage looks like a small Ebony Cup (*Pseuoplectania nigrella*) so make sure to look for both stages.

Irregular Earth Tongue

Neolecta irregularis


Photo by Christian Greiner

When & Where

Known for growing in leaf litter or moss, this mushrooms is most commonly found June-Oct in coniferous forests.


Photo by Alfredo Justo

Description

As indicated by its name, this club mushroom is characterized by its irregular shape and yellow color. 1-5cm in height, it is commonly found scattered or in groups.

What else could it be

Another yellow club shaped mushrooms could be *Clavulinopsis fusiformis* (Golden spindle), but these grow in fused clusters often in grassy areas.

Pluteus mammillatus

Description

The stand-out feature on this mushroom is a fragile ring often low on the stipe, the only known Pluteus in N. America with one. It also has a distinctive silky, yellow cap with free gills that turn pink as it matures.


Photo by Paul Broenen

When & Where

This mushroom has been listed as rare by the IUCN due to its presence in bottomland hardwood forests (swampy areas). It’s range is not well known but seems to be most observed in the summer and fall on decaying hardwood.

What else could it be

Make sure to check that it doesn’t have a volva.

Purple Fairy Club

Alloclavaria purpurea

Description

The purple fairy club is made of multiple thin, fragile spindles, 2-6mm thick. When fresh they are purple or lavender and fade to tan.

Photo by Chris Kleine

When & Where

These mushrooms grow in high humidity, northern boreal and alpine forests during the summer and fall.

What else could it be

There are a few other purple *Clavaria* sp. (*C. fumosa*, *C. zollingeri*, *C. amethystinoides*). However, these other mushrooms tend to have branched clubs or grow near hardwoods.

Round Spored Gyromitra

Gyromitra sphaerospora

Description

This false morel is quite fragile and has a puffy, cushion-shaped, brown cap covered in fine granules and a margin folded inward. It’s stem is ribbed and pinkish to purplish. The underside is whitish to brownish.

When & Where

More likely in northern counties of MN in late spring and early summer on well-decayed, mossy logs (conifer or hardwood).

What else could it be

Gyromitra brunnea is the most common false morel that appears in spring, but it is redder and more angular.

Shaggy Bracket

Inonotus hispidus

Description

This orange-ish polypore has a hairy upper surface. When young, its cap has concentric zoning and sometimes will have droplets (guttation). They blacken with age and have a brown spore print.

What else could it be

There are a few shelf mushrooms with overlapping traits (resinous polypore, dyer's polypore, red belted conk, old chaga) so make sure that all of the features match.

When & Where

In mid to late summer, look for dead and dying hardwoods.

Photo by Jeremy Bartlett

Swamp Beacons

Mitrula elegans

Description

Swamp Beacons come in variable shapes but most commonly they are slender with yellow-orange cap and a translucent stipe.

Photo by Jeremy Bartlett

When & Where

As the name suggests, this mushroom is found in marshy areas and bogs. They fruit from dead material (conifer needles, cones, aquatic plants), often in standing water. This is a spring mushroom.

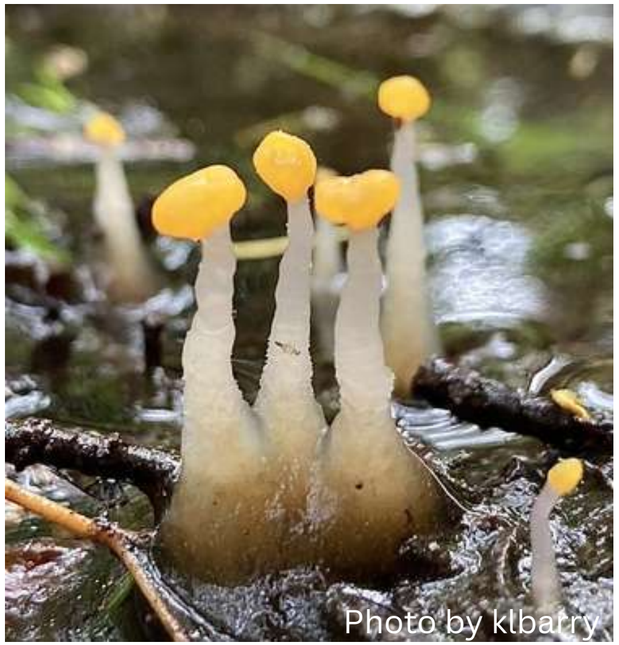

Photo by klbatry

What else could it be

Their shape is similar to some yellow club mushrooms but the habitat makes this mushroom distinctive.

Umbrella Polypore

Polyporus umbellatus

Description

Many small, roundish caps, discrete caps & stems that fuse towards the base. When young, the top of the cap has a funnel shape. The pore surface is white and pores run down the stem. White spore print.

Photo by László Németh

When & Where

Near the base or roots of hardwoods. Most common in early summer (June) but can be found spring-fall.

What else could it be

It is visually similar to Hen of the Woods (*Grifola frondosa*) but in G*rifola frondosa* the cups are bigger and more irregular.

Willow Gloves

Hypocreposis lichenoides


Photo by Christian Schwarz

Description

This parasite looks like a lichen growing on willow bark. It is flat, orange-brown in color and has finger-like protrusions that join at a central point. Mature specimens may be dusted with darker spores.

When & Where

This fungus is around year-round as a parasite of the Willow Glue fungus (*Hydnoporia tabacina*). Willow Glue, and thus Willow Gloves are most common in dense willow thickets near moist areas or bodies of water.


Photo by Taye Bright

Willow Glue, the host fungus for Willow Gloves

What else could it be

There is a similar species Hazel Gloves (*Hypocreopsis rhodendendri*), but it grows on rhododendron (as you could perhaps guess from the scientific name)

Witches Cauldron

Sarcosoma globosum

Description

The Witches Cauldron gets its name from its young form - large, round cup (4-10cm) that is filled with a gelatinous mixture. As it matures, its surface flattens and the bottom bulges. This mushroom is listed as near threatened on the IUCN red list.

When & Where

This mushroom is mostly found in northern counties in shaded, moist pine needle duff in the spring. Look for old mossy stands that are predominantly spruce and areas that have been forested for a long time.

Photo by Erica Schell

What else could it be

Devil's Urn (*Urnula craterium*) is a similar goblet shape but the interior is not filled. Also, Devil's Urns grow from decaying branches while the Witches Cauldron is on leaf litter or duff.

Photo byTomas Pocius

Making a Collection

In the Field

Take Photos

- mushroom in habitat
- top, side & bottom of mushroom
- notable features (bruising/staining, oozing, etc.)
- with field slip (ideal)

Make Notes

the back of a field slip is often convenient

- habitat: substrate, surrounding trees/vegetation (if known)
- features of the mushroom that photos might not capture (e.g., smell, taste spore color, small features)

Collecting

Collect a sample & store separate from other mushrooms you collect (tacklebox or wax paper bags can be helpful to keep specimens separate)

- For DNA sequencing: only need a small amount (~size of quarter once dehydrated)
- For Bell: a few specimens at different development stages or a chunk of a large mushroom

Making a Collection

At Home

Making a post

- Post on iNaturalist and/or Mushroom Observer (MO) w/ photos, notes from the field & other observations (e.g., spore print, microscopy), & field slip #
- Fill out any remaining info on field slip
- Make sure field slip # is included in the post and put the iNat or MO observation number on the field slip

Processing

If found at foray or you don’t have dehydration capacity, give specimen to foray leader/Funga group members or contact Funga group

- Dehydrate specimen(s) at low temps (95-115°F) until cracker dry (keep w/ field slip in dehydrator so you don’t mix up specimens)
- Once dry, store in freezer bag with field slip