



As a beginning mushroom forager, I set out to create a comprehensive log journal to help me explore the funky world of fungi. I share this journal with you to aid your observational and note-taking process and to help you better identify the distinctive features of your fantastic fungal discoveries.

Reference Guides & Terminology

Reference pages are placed at the front of the logbook to help provide visual reference points and some terminology to describe your observations. Some of the main "mycological" terms are included, along with a variety of simple descriptive terms. Such terms seem to vary somewhat among mushroom foragers, both novice and experienced, so the important thing is to use terms that make sense to you and that you can keep consistent until you begin to learn and apply more consistent Latin biological terms.

Layout

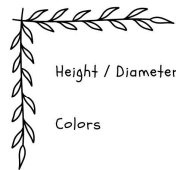
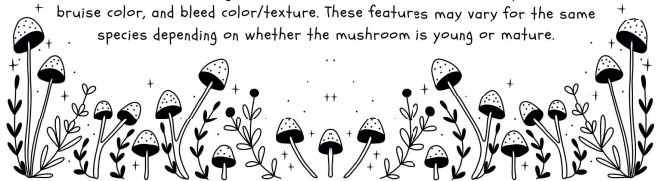
There are 4 log pages, including a spore print page, for each specimen. It can be helpful to take notes, photos, and spore prints for both young (newly formed) and mature (reaching the end of its cycle) mushrooms of each species that you locate, as these specimens can further enhance the details that can support accurate identifications.

General Information

Take note of date, time of day, precise location, as well as your own system of specimen identification numbers or codes and associated photographs. If you know the species, this information can be noted, or potential guesses (with some way to indicate confident versus speculative identifications).

Pileus (Cap), Hymenium (Spore Tissues), Stipe (Stem)

These parts of the mushroom anatomy will comprise the bulk of your observations. In addition to the features highlighted in the reference pages, also take note of height, diameter, color, non-textural visual patterns, bruise color, and bleed color/texture. These features may vary for the same species depending on whether the mushroom is young or mature.



Height / Diameter

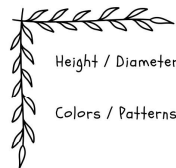
Colors

Tissue Type

Tissue Spacing / Arrangement

Tissue Attachment / Veil

Young → Mature



Height / Diameter

Colors / Patterns

Shaft Shape

Base Shape

Texture

Rings

Cap Position / Interior

Young → Mature

Hymenium * Stipe



Mushroom Anatomy

Veils

Partial or universal veils are temporary membranous tissues that protect the hymenium of young developing mushrooms. These veils rupture and disintegrate as the mushroom matures. Remnants



Pileus

The pileus, or cap, is the uppermost part of a fungi's fruiting body. It features variations in size, shape, color, edge, texture, pattern, and scales.

may appear as patches or "warts" on the pileus, "annulus" rings on the stem, and/or a "volva" cup at the base.

Hymenium

The hymenium is the spore-bearing tissue of the fruiting body. This tissue may present as gills (or lamellae), tubes, pores, ridges, spines, or teeth.

Stipe

The stipe provides support to the pileus and hymenium. Stipes vary in size, color, texture, rings, and position in relation to the cap, or may be absent altogether.

Base

The base is the lowermost portion of the fruiting body and attaches to the mycelium. The base may vary in size and shape and may feature a "volva" in the form of a cup, sac, or scales.



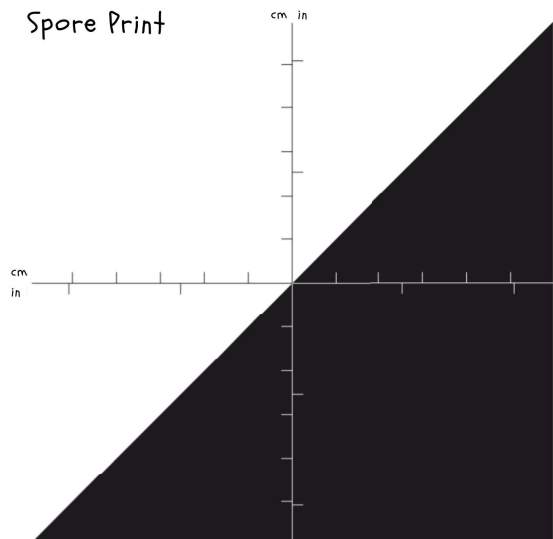
Mycelium

Mycelium is the vegetative, root-like structure of a fungus consisting of a mass of branching, thread-like filaments called hyphae. The mycelial network may be "epigeous" (ground surface) or "hypogean" (subterranean). Fungal mycelium can form a symbiotic "mycorrhizal" relationship with nearby plants or a digestive "saprotrophic" relationship.

Specimen

Select a mature cap with minimal damage and carefully remove the stipe. Center the cap on the space below with the hymenium facing down. Cover the cap with a bowl or glass and leave undisturbed for a few or several hours. When the print is ready, note measurements, color, and pattern.

Spore Print



Bruising & Bleeding

Take nicks and make observations within 30 minutes of picking

