(v) The keys

The gilled mushrooms (agarics) with central stems that are illustrated have been divided into four separate keys to genera: (A) white, cream and yellow spored, (B) pink spored, (C) ochre to brown spored, (D) purple-brown to black spored. The mushrooms that either have a stem which grows laterally from the cap or only a rudimentary stem are on pp. 182–8. The spore colours in this group are mixed.

KEY A Mushrooms with gills, a central stem and spores white, cream or yellowish

1 With volva or hoop-like remains on stem base  
   \quad \textit{Amanita} (pp. 15–23)  
   \quad 2

   2 Stem with ring  
      \quad (a) \textit{Lepista} (most) and allies (pp. 24–31)  
      \quad (b) Cap very slimy \textit{Oudemansiella muscida} (pp. 33)  
      \quad (c) Usually in clumps \textit{Armillaria mellea} (pp. 32)  
      \quad (d) \textit{Tricholoma cingulatum} (pp. 34)  
   \quad 1

   2 Stem without ring  
      \quad 1

3 Ejects milk when damaged  
   \quad (a) Large to average types \textit{Lactarius} (pp. 76–90)  
   \quad (b) Small with narrow stems \textit{Meconia} (part) (p. 71)  
   \quad 4

3 Not exuding milk  
   \quad 4

4 Cap and stem brittle, crumbly, average to large size \textit{Russula} (pp. 91–111)  
   \quad 5

4 Not brittle or crumbly  
   \quad 5

5 Growing on the remains of other mushrooms  
   \quad (a) \textit{Asterothere} (p. 76)  
   \quad (b) \textit{Clypeolus aboles} (p. 56)  
   \quad 6

5 Not growing on mushroom remains  
   \quad 6

6 Small (usually under 3cm across cap)  
   \quad (a) On pine cones \textit{Psuedolentinula} (p. 76) and \textit{Boletus} (p. 65)  
   \quad (b) \textit{Gills decurrent Omphalina} (p. 69)  
   \quad (c) Caps conical, stems tall and narrow \textit{Meconia} (part) (p. 70–76)  
   \quad (d) Stems tough, cartilaginous \textit{Marasmius} (pp. 86–8)  
   \quad (e) \textit{Lepista} (part) (pp. 29–30)  
   \quad 7

6 Larger (over 3cm across cap)  
   \quad 7

7 Gills decurrent  
   \quad (a) Gills thick, waxy \textit{Hygophyllum} and \textit{Hygrocybe} (pp. 58–65)  
   \quad (b) Gills just shallow wrinkles \textit{Cortinarius} group (pp. 150–91)  
   \quad (c) Gills very blunt, fusiform \textit{Hygrophoropsis aurantia} (p. 24)  
   \quad (d) Gills thin, crowded \textit{Clypeolus} and allies (pp. 46–51)  
   \quad 8

7 Gills not decurrent  
   \quad 8

8 With deep tap root  
   \quad \textit{Oudemansiella radicans} (p. 33)  
   \quad 9

8 No tap root  
   \quad 9

9 Stems cartilaginous  
   \quad \textit{Clypeolus} and allies (pp. 54–5)  
   \quad 10

9 Stems not cartilaginous  
   \quad 10

10 Gills thick, waxy \textit{Hyde} (part) (p. 60)  
   \quad 11

10 Gills not thick, waxy  
   \quad 11

11 Growing in clumps, stems fused at base  
   \quad (a) \textit{Armillaria adheens} (p. 32)  
   \quad (b) \textit{Flammulina velutipes} (pp. 58)  
   \quad (c) \textit{Lyophyllum} (part) (p. 42)  
   \quad 12

11 Not in clumps  
   \quad \textit{Tricholoma} and allies (pp. 34–46)  
   \quad \textit{Also Lactarius} (pp. 125)  

KEY B Mushrooms with gills, a central stem and spores pink

1 With a volva at stem base \textit{Volvaria} (p. 112)  
   \quad 2

1 Without volva  
   \quad 3

2 Gills decurrent \textit{Clypeolus} (p. 112)  
   \quad 4

2 Gills not decurrent  
   \quad 3

3 Growing on wood  
   \quad (a) Cap cuticle thick and rubbery \textit{Rhodonia} (p. 187)  
   \quad (b) Small, blue-coloured \textit{Lepista} (p. 117)  
   \quad (c) \textit{Pluteus} (pp. 118–20)  
   \quad 4

3 Not growing on wood  
   \quad 5

4 Mature gilt salmon pink  
   \quad (a) \textit{Gills free Pluteus} (pp. 118–20)  
   \quad (b) Gills attached \textit{Entoloma} and allies (pp. 114–18)  
   \quad 4

4 Mature gilt net pink  
   \quad \textit{Lepista} (pp. 112–14)  

KEY C Mushrooms with gills, a central stem and spores ochre to rust brown

1 Spores dull ochre to brown, never rust brown  
   \quad 2

1 Spores rust  
   \quad 3

2 Stem with a ring  
   \quad (a) Stem with tap root \textit{Hebeloma radicans} (p. 147)  
   \quad (b) Without tap root \textit{Agrocybe} (pp. 165–70)  
   \quad (c) With spusnum \textit{Pholiota} (p. 146)  
   \quad 4

2 Stem without a ring  
   \quad (a) Cap fibrous, silky or scaly, often conical \textit{Inocybe} (pp. 148–54)  
   \quad (b) Cap often sticky \textit{Hebeloma} (pp. 146–7)  
   \quad 5

3 Stems very tall and slender, cap conical  
   \quad (a) \textit{Boletus edulis} (p. 154)  
   \quad (b) \textit{Cortinarius} (part) (p. 135)  
   \quad (c) \textit{Galerina} (part) (pp. 156–7)  
   \quad 4

3 Stems shorter, more robust  
   \quad 6

4 Cap margin inrolled, gill decurrent  
   \quad 5

4 Cap margin not inrolled, gills not decurrent  
   \quad 6

5 On wood, wood debris or burnt ground  
   \quad (a) \textit{Galerina} (part) (p. 156)  
   \quad (b) \textit{Gymnopilus} (pp. 142–4)  
   \quad (c) \textit{Pholiota} (pp. 144–6)  
   \quad 6

5 Not on wood, wood debris or burnt ground  
   \quad 7

6 Medium to large types (caps over 3cm across)  
   \quad (a) \textit{Reties capnatus} (p. 141)  
   \quad (b) \textit{Cortinarius} (most) (pp. 121–4)  
   \quad 5

6 Small (caps usually under 3cm across)  
   \quad (a) \textit{Narcissa} and allies (pp. 157–8)  
   \quad (b) \textit{Cortinarius} (a few) (pp. 121–4)  

KEY D Mushrooms with gills, a central stem and spores purple-brown to black

1 Cap turns to black slime (deliquesces)  
   \quad \textit{Gomphus} (most) (pp. 176–81)  
   \quad (b) Weeping black slime \textit{Lactarius} (p. 176)  
   \quad 2

1 Not deliquescing  
   \quad 3

2 Cap and stem very brittle/fragile  
   \quad \textit{Psathyrella} (p. 172–3)  
   \quad 4

2 Not very brittle/fragile  
   \quad 3

3 Gills mottled, cap smooth  
   \quad \textit{Panaeolus} (p. 186–82)  
   \quad 4

3 Gills not mottled  
   \quad 5

4 Gills very decurrent  
   \quad \textit{Gomphus} and \textit{Chroogomphus} (pp. 185–90)  
   \quad 5

4 Not so  
   \quad 6

5 With a persistent ring, gills free  
   \quad \textit{Agaricus} (pp. 160–69)  
   \quad 5

5 Without persistent ring but some with veil remnants on the stem, gills attached  
   \quad (a) Spores blackish \textit{Lactarius} and \textit{Coprinus} (pp. 176–81)  
   \quad (b) Spores purple brown \textit{Phyllophorus} (pp. 158–69)  
   \quad \textit{Also Sphora} and allies  
   \quad \textit{Also Lactarius} (pp. 171–3)