

(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 *Amanita* (pp.15-23)
- 1 Without volva 2
- 2 Stem with ring (a) *Lepiota* (most) and allies (pp.24-31)
(b) Cap very slimy *Oudemansiella mucida* (p.33)
(c) Usually in clumps *Armillaria mellea* (p.32)
(d) *Tricholoma cingulatum* (p.34)
- 2 Stem without ring 3
- 3 Exudes milk when damaged (a) Large to average types *Lactarius* (pp.76-90)
(b) Small with narrow stems *Mycena* (part) (p.71)
- 3 Not exuding milk 4
- 4 Cap and stem brittle, crumbly, average to large size *Russula* (pp.91-111)
- 4 Not brittle or crumbly 5
- 5 Growing on the remains of other mushrooms (a) *Asterophora* (p.76)
(b) *Collybia tuberosa* (p.56)
- 5 Not growing on mushroom remains 6
- 6 Small (usually under 3cm across cap)
(a) On pine cones *Pseudohiatula* (p.76) and *Baeospora* (p.69)
(b) Gills decurrent *Omphalina* (p.69)
(c) Caps conical, stems tall and narrow *Mycena* (pp.70-76)
(d) Stems tough, cartilaginous *Marasmius* (pp.66-8)
(e) *Lepiota* (part) (pp.29-30)
- 6 Larger (over 3cm across cap) 7
- 7 Gills decurrent (a) Gills thick, waxy *Hygrocybe* and *Hygrophorus* (pp.58-65)
(b) Gills just shallow wrinkles *Cantharellus* group (pp.190-91)
(c) Gills very blunt, forking *Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca* (p.66)
(d) Gills thin, crowded *Clitocybe* and allies (pp.46-51)
- 7 Gills not decurrent 8
- 8 With deep tap root *Oudemansiella radicata* (p.33)
- 8 No tap root 9
- 9 Stems cartilaginous *Collybia* and allies (pp.54-8)
- 9 Stems not cartilaginous 10
- 10 Gills thick, waxy *Hygrocybe* (part) (p.60)
- 10 Gills not thick, waxy 11
- 11 Growing in clumps, stems fused at base (a) *Armillaria tabescens* (p.32)
(b) *Flammulina velutipes* (p.58)
(c) *Lyophyllum* (part) (p.42)
- 11 Not in clumps *Tricholoma* and allies (pp.34-46)
also *Leucocortinarius bulbiger* (p.123)

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

- 1 With a volva at stem base *Volvariella* (p.112)
- 1 Without volva 2
- 2 Gills decurrent *Clitopilus* (p.112)
- 2 Gills not decurrent 3
- 3 Growing on wood (a) Cap cuticle thick and rubbery *Rhodotus* (p.187)
(b) Small, blue-coloured *Leptonia euchroa* (p.117)
(c) *Pluteus* (pp.118-20)
- 3 Not growing on wood 4
- 4 Mature gills salmon pink (a) Gills free *Pluteus* (pp.118-20)
(b) Gills attached *Enteloma* and allies (pp.114-18)
- 4 Mature gills not pink *Lepista* (pp.113-14)

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

- 1 Spores dull ochre to brown, never rust-brown 2
- 1 Spores rust 3
- 2 Stem with a ring (a) Stem with tap root *Hebeloma radicosum* (p.147)
(b) Without tap root *Agrocybe* (pp.169-70)
(c) With sphagnum *Pholiota myosotis* (p.146)
- 2 Stem without a ring (a) Cap fibrous, silky or scaly, often conical *Inocybe* (pp.148-54)
(b) Cap often sticky *Hebeloma* (pp.146-7)
- 3 Stems very tall and slender, cap conical (a) *Bolbitis vitellinus* (p.154)
(b) *Conocybe* (p.155)
(c) *Galerina* (part) (pp.156-7)
- 3 Stems shorter, more robust 4
- 4 Cap margin inrolled, gill decurrent *Paxillus involutus* (p.142)
- 4 Cap margin not inrolled, gills not decurrent 5
- 5 On wood, wood debris or burnt ground (a) *Galerina* (part) (p.156)
(b) *Gymnopilus* (pp.142-4)
(c) *Pholiota* (pp.144-6)
- 5 Not on wood, wood debris or burnt ground 6
- 6 Medium to large types (caps over 3cm across) (a) *Rozites caperatus* (p.141)
(b) *Cortinarius* (most) (pp.121-41)
- 6 Small (cap usually under 3cm across) (c) *Naucoria* and allies (pp.157-8)
(d) *Cortinarius* (a few) (pp.121-41)

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

- 1 Cap turns to black slime (deliquesces) (a) *Coprinus* (most) (pp.176-81)
(b) Weeping black slime *Lacrymaria* (p.176)
- 1 Not deliquescing 2
- 2 Cap and stem very brittle/fragile *Psathyrella* (p.172-5)
- 2 Not very brittle/fragile 3
- 3 Gills mottled, cap smooth *Panaeolus* (p.180-82)
- 3 Gills not mottled 4
- 4 Gills very decurrent *Gomphidius* and *Chroogomphus* (pp.189-90)
- 4 Not so 5
- 5 With a persistent ring, gills free *Agaricus* (pp.160-69)
- 5 Without persistent ring but some with veil remnants on the stem, gills attached (a) Spores blackish *Lacrymaria* and *Coprinus* (pp.176-81)
(b) Spores purple brown *Hypholoma* (pp.158-60)
also *Stropharia* and allies (pp.171-3)