

Mushroom Glossary Terms

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abruptly adnexed	see hyphidium
acanthophysis	slightly acid
aciculate	taste burning or peppery, in this program the description of 'acid' is rendered
acid	spine
acula (plural aculae)	of cystidia, tapered so that only the very basal portion is relatively swollen
aculeate	gradually narrowed to a point
acuminate	pointed, sharp; less than a right angle
acute	not cyanophilous
acyanophilous	refers to gills that are broadly attached to the stem, the lower edge of the gill
adnate	refers to gills that are narrowly attached to the stem: the gill edge curves g
adnexed	appearing as if air is trapped
aeriferous	verdigris-green, (malachite-green), the color of oxidized copper
aeruginose	mushroom with gills
agaric	a person who studies gilled mushrooms
agaricologist	the study of gilled mushrooms
agaricology	surface fibrils or scales drawn together in clumps
agglutinated	sausage-shaped, tubular and slightly curved with rounded ends
allantoid	smelling or tasting like onions or garlic
alliaceous	of spores, with top end broader than base (where hilar appendage located)
almond-shaped	other names for the same species, given in the description immediately following
alternate names	light leather colored, usually interpreted as light tan or medium yellow brown
alutaceous	surface of cap or spore with broad pits
alveolate	like Amanita, with free or slightly adnexed gills, a volva, and a ring
amanitoid	cyclic peptide found in Amanita and other genera that are very toxic
amatoxin	shapeless, formless
amorphous	flask-shaped
ampullaceous	flask-shaped; of cystidia, with base and middle parts wide and top part like
ampulliform	forming a network, connecting by cross-veins
anastomosing	resembling a ring or referring to a ring, as in an annular zone on stem
annular	a band of fibrils or gluten around stem, often becoming darkened by spore
annular zone	bearing an annulus
annulate	ring or collar of tissue on stem formed by ruptured of the veil that initially j
annulus	point of development of fruiting body at which the fresh unexpanded cap is
anthesis	same as germ pore, not to be confused with apiculus, which is the other e
apical pore	nipple-like projection; nipple-like projection on spore which corresponds to
apiculus	margin of cap fringed with hanging fragments of the veil; (of cystidium) ha
appendiculate	flattened down
appressed	surface cracked into plaques or blocks, like the cracking that occurs when
areolate	refers to gills that curve upwards from the margin of the cap to the attachm
ascending	Phylum that includes the largest group of fungi, those that produces their s
Ascomycota	of spores, appearing roughened with tiny points; or roughened with small v
asperulate	gradually narrowed
attenuate	without zones, without concentric markings
azonate	an indole alkaloid (4-phosphoryloxy-N-methyltryptamine), closely related to
baecocystin	no warts or hairs, or raised scales, fibers or patches, same as glabrous an
bald	

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basal mycelium	fungus	of the stem, ranging from a few fibrils to a velvet layer
basidiocarp	fruiting body: the whole	reproductive structure of a mushroom including cap and gills
basidiome	fruiting body: the whole	reproductive structure of a mushroom including cap and gills
Basidiomycetes	class that includes most	gilled mushrooms as well as chanterelles, tooth fungi and
Basidiomycota	phylum that includes classes	Basidiomycetes (includes most gilled mushrooms)
basidiospore	sexual spore, the usual	spore produced on gills
bell-shaped	in the shape of a bell (like	the Liberty bell), with rounded top and flaring lower
bibulous	of surface of cap, capable	of absorbing moisture
bolete	fleshy mushroom with pores	(at the ends of tubes) on underside of cap
broad	when used of gills, refers	to the height (depth) of the gill, which may be narrow
broadly adnate	see adnate	
broadly convex	of cap, convex but mostly	flattened apart from downcurved margin, same as
brown rot	carbonizing decay (cellulose-	composing decay)
bulbose	having a bulb or bulging	area; of stem, with an enlarged base
button	young fruiting body before	it has opened up
byssoid	of mycelium, the condition	when fine filaments spread from the base of the
caespitose	growing in close groups or	close clusters or tufts (may be from a common base)
calyptrate	with a hood; of spores, the	outer layer separating to form a partial envelope
cap	caplike part of fruiting	body which supports the gills
carinate	of spores, furnished with	a keel, boat shaped
cartilaginous	of stems: firm, tough and	pliant (flexible), typically under 5mm in diameter
cellulose	a component of wood and	plant cell walls made of glucose units
cirrate	rolled round (curled) or	becoming so
class	classification group above	order but below phylum: suffix for the fungi is -r
close	of gill spacing, nearly	touching but with visible space between, intermediate
club-shaped	like a caveman's club; when	used of stems, implies base is thicker and stem is
clustered	growing together, either	very close or from a common base
concentric	having rings or circular	zones
conic	shaped like a cone	
conic-campanulate	of cap, bell-shaped with	conic umbo
conifer	cone-bearing tree	
convergent	of gill hyphae, projecting	inward and downward away from cap as seen in
convex	regularly rounded, domed,	like an inverted bowl
convex-depressed	of cap, convex with	depressed center
coprophilous	growing on dung	
crowded	of gill spacing, very close,	touching or with almost no space between, the
cucullate	like a top hat; like a cowl	or hood
cuneate	wedge-shaped	
cupulate	cup-shaped	
cuspidate	sharp, pointed	
daedaloid	with elongated and sinuous	(curving) openings
deciduous	referring to trees that	seasonally shed their leaves; or referring to anything
decorticated	of dead wood without the	bark
decumbent	(of stem) with the lower	end lying against the substratum
decurrent	refers to gills that run	down the stem: i.e. attachment at stem is wider than
decurved	referring to a cap margin	or scales means curved downward

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delignifying decay	a lignin and cellulose decomposing rot, leaving the wood light colored and
deliquesce	melt into liquid, usually referring to the gills and cap of <i>Coprinus</i> or of some
depressed	of cap, having the middle lower than the edge; of gills, sinuate; depressed
derm	surface layer of cap cells if they are differentiated from the underlying tissue
disc	center of the cap
discoïd	dish-shaped
distant	of gill spacing, meaning the gills are spaced far apart, the order being crowded
dry	surface not sticky or slimy or hygrophanous, feeling as if there is no moisture
eccentric	off center; of stem attachment, attached away from center of cap but not at
ectomycorrhiza	system in which mycelium branches through soil and forms a covering around
ellipsoid	like an oblong sphere, often referring to the three dimensional shape of a spore
elliptic	like an oblong circle, often referring to the outline (as opposed to the three
elongate	of spores, same as oblong, at least according to one definition, but may refer
emarginate	of gills, with a notch near stem, Largent & Baroni equate it with abruptly adnate
endomycorrhiza	system in which mycelium branches through soil and grows between and
endosporium	the innermost layer of the spore wall
equal	of a stem, the same diameter throughout its length, cylindrical; of gill, broad
eroded	of the margins of cap or gills, developing irregular jagged edges as a result
even	of cap margin, means not wavy or lobed: the bottom line of the margin as
expanded	cap fully developed; cap spread out
fairy ring	a circle or arc of mushrooms
family	a classification group above genus and species, but below class and order
fibrillose	composed of delicate fibers which are long and evenly arranged on the surface
finely adnexed	of gills, so narrowly attached that they give the appearance of being free
flat	of cap, the margin being on the same level as the center, same as plane and
flesh	the tissue of cap or stem, not including the surface
floccose	with easily removed cottony or woolly tufts; woolly or cottony; dry and loose
foray	a field trip
forked	of gills, dividing into two or more branches as they goes away from stem
forking	of gills, dividing into two or more branches as they goes away from stem
free	refers to gills that are not attached to stem
friable	crumbling easily
fruiting body	the whole reproductive structure of a mushroom including cap, gills and stem
fungus (plural fungi)	an organism that lacks chlorophyll, consists of filamentous tubular branches
funnel-shaped	with a very deep depression, like that of a funnel
fusoid	somewhat spindle-shaped
gasteromycete	a basidiomycete that does not actively discharge its spores, formally considered
genus (plural genera)	classification grouping below family but above species: first letter is given in
gill	gill, the spore-bearing platelike structure extending underneath and from the
greasy	slippery or oily but not viscid (sticky) or slimy, same as lubricous
gregarious	growing in close groups but not tufted or clustered
group	a cluster of taxonomically related similar species typified by a particular spore
guttulate	of spores, containing an oil droplet
habit	the general external and characteristic appearance of mushrooms, and manner
habitat	the natural place of growth
hairy	covered by an arrangement of fibrils or mycelial strands resembling hairs

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hallucinogen	capable of producing disturbances in (usually visual) perception
hardwood	any tree that is not a conifer
heterodiametric	of spore sizes, the average length divided by the average width has a value
hollow	of stem, having the flesh empty of fibrils, same as fistulose or tubular
homogeneous	the same throughout
host	plant or animal on or in which a parasitic fungus exists
humicolous	living in humus
humus	decaying organic material in or on soil
hymenium	fertile area of fruiting body where spores are produced (in gilled mushroom)
hymenophore	spore-bearing surface
hyphidium	a little, or strongly, modified terminal hypha in the hymenium (spore-bearing)
incurved	of cap margin, curved inwards toward stem, but less than inrolled
inequilateral	of spores, means that a line drawn through the length of spore does not divide
inflexed	bent inward, incurved
inrolled	of cap margin, rolled inwards so that the edge of the margin is actually pointed
kingdom	one of five groups of living organisms: Monera (including bacteria and blue-green
lacinate	of margin or cap or annulus, cut more coarsely than fringed, slashed
lateral	of a stem, attached to the side of the cap
lichen	a dual organism in which a fungus (usually an ascomycete but occasionally a
lignicolous	living in, on, or out of wood
lubricous	greasy or slippery or oily but not viscid (sticky) or slimy
macroscopic	visible to the naked eye, without a microscope
margin	the edge of the cap or gills
marginate	having a distinct margin: when discussing gills the edge has a different color
micron	one thousandth of a millimeter, or one millionth of a meter
microscopic	discernible only with a microscope
moderately broad	of gills, with height intermediate between narrow and broad
mucilaginous	slimy
mushroom	the fruiting body of a fungus, especially one that has gills (agaric) or a stem
mycelium (plural mycelia)	network of fungal cells that may or may not amass together and form a mass
mycenoid	resembling a mushroom of the genus Mycena: tall, slender mushrooms with
mycology	the science or the study of fungi
mycophagist	one who eats fungi
mycorrhiza	a particular symbiotic relationship with the roots of a seed plant, see ectomycorrhiza
narrow	of gills, the opposite of broad, refers to the height of the gill, which may be
naucorioid	applied to any mushroom with a fleshy type, attached gills which are not
nodule	small bump, lump, or knot
notched	refers to gills that are uncinuate or sinuate or emarginate, as if a wedge of gill
obclavate	club-shaped in the opposite direction to that expected; of cystidia, with base
obconic	like an ice-cream cone with point down
obligate	invariably found in a particular situation, usually in reference to organisms
oblong	of spores, elongated with approximately parallel sides; according to one source
obovate	ovate with the larger end in the opposite direction to the usual
obovoid	ovoid with the larger end in the opposite direction to the usual
obsolete	(of annulus, scales etc.) very imperfectly developed, hardly perceptible; of
obtuse	blunt, not pointed; greater than a right angle

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obtusely conic	rounded or blunt cone-shaped
obtusely umbonate	broadly umbonate, not with sharp umbo
ochreate	of volva, sheathing the stem at base like a stocking
order	a classification grouping below class but above family, genus and species
organism	individual living bacterium, protozoan, animal, plant, fungus etc.
oval	like the outline of an egg
ovate	similar to oval but some regard as more pointed at the narrower end
ovoid	shaped like an egg, same as oval, but sometimes implying 3-dimensional
parabolic	of cap, with the height greater than the width, the top rounded
parasitic	feeding on another living organisms; living at the expense of other organisms
partial veil	inner veil of tissue which joins the stem to the cap edge at first in some species
pellicle	an upper surface layer on cap surface that can undergo gelatinization, mainly in agarics
phylum (plural phyla)	classification grouping below kingdom but above class
pileus	cap of a mushroom
pitted	with small depressions
pleurotoid	resembling in general form the genus Pleurotus, may be applied to any gilled mushroom
pliable	capable of bending, easily flexible
pluteotoid	resembling in general form the genus Pluteus, with free or finely adnexed gills
pocket rot	a rot producing hollow pockets in a tree
polypores	the shelf or bracket fungi which produce spores on the inside of vertically oriented pores
pore	a circular depression in place of the gill of many non-gilled species; a circular opening in a bracket fungus
psilocin	4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine, a hallucinogenic substance found in some mushrooms
psilocybin	O-phosphoryl-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine, a hallucinogenic substance found in some mushrooms
radicating	forming a root
reviving	said of fruiting body which shrivels in dry weather or when dried and takes up water
revolute	(of cap margin), rolled back or up
rhizomorph	cordlike strand of twisted hyphae present around base of stem, often dark
ridged	of spores, with narrow raised straight or curved strips on the surface of the spore
ring	annulus, collar of tissue on stem formed by ruptured of the veil that initially surrounds the stem
saccate	of a volva, shaped like a sac, cup or sheath
saprophytic	living on decaying organic matter
scale	piece of tissue on surface that is not especially elongated, differentiated from the surface
sclerotium	a knot or firm frequently rounded mass of hyphae, usually underground, sometimes on surface
separable	said of stem or gill easily removed from cap
sequestrate	describes fruiting bodies that have evolved from those that forcibly discharge spores
shaggy	rough as with long hair or wool
sinuate	of gill attachment, refers to gills with a lower edge that curves up close to the stem
slimy	having a thick layer of slime, more than viscid or glutinous
skirtlike	of a ring (annulus), hanging down like a skirt
smooth	of a surface, without projections, often equivalent to bald or glabrous; but not necessarily so
solid	not hollow; feeling hard
solitary	not growing in the immediate neighborhood of other individuals
sphagnum	a genus of moss that grows in bogs
spathulate	shaped like a spatula or spoon, oblong with a narrowing base
species	classification grouping below family and genus, often used for organisms of a single genus
spore	reproductive cell or "seed" of a fungus, produced on specialized cells, which may be unicellular or multicellular

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spore print	a visible deposit of spores obtained by allowing a gilled mushroom to drop
spore wall	in the most complex spore wall there are five layers from outer to inner: pe
sporocarp	a structure in which or on which spores are produced, often used for fruitin
stalk	same as stipe or stem
stem	the column supporting the cap in most mushroom, more correctly called th
sterile	not producing spores
stipe	the correct name for the "stem" of a mushroom
subclose	a term used occasionally of gill spacing, intermediate between close and c
subcrowded	a term used occasionally of gill spacing, intermediate between close and c
subdistant	of gill spacing, intermediate between close and distant, the order being cro
subfusiform	of spores, elongated, tapered at one end and rounded at the other
subgills	the short gills that do not span the entire distance from margin to stem
subisodiametric	of spore sizes, the average length divided by the average width has a valu
substrate	the material that a fungus is growing on
taxon (plural taxa)	a named form, variety, species etc.
terrestrial	appearing to grow from the ground, or on the ground, as opposed to grow
toadstool	a mushroom, especially a poisonous one
toothed	serrate on the edges; toothlike on the edges; of gills, with toothlike edges
translucent	transmitting light diffusely, semitransparent
tubular	of stem, having the flesh empty of fibrils, same as fistulose or hollow; of hy
turbinate	top-shaped; of cystidia, swollen at top, tapered from middle downward, be
umbilicate	refers to a cap with a narrow, moderate to deep depression in center whic
umbo	a raised knob or mound at the center of the cap
umbo	a raised knob or mound at the center of the cap
umbonate	having a raised knob or mound at the center of the cap
uncinate	refers to gills with a lower edge that curves up as it comes close to the ste
undulate	wavy
universal veil	the enveloping veil initially covering the whole mushroom including the top
uplifted	the margin of the cap turning upward
urceolate	having the shape of a pitcher, with a large body and small mouth
urticoid	with a swollen base and a long gradually narrowed apex
utriform	of cystidia, with a slight constriction below a large round head, like a blad
vaginatoid	applied to any mushroom with free or finely adnexed gills, a volva, and lac
variety	(abbreviated var.) a consistent appearing variation of a species, with more
veil	referring either to the partial veil which joins the stem to the cap edge at fir
viscid	sticky but not slimy or lubricous: the mushroom usually feels somewhat sli
volva	the remains of the universal veil found at the base of the stem, usually in
waxy	appearing as if coated with wax
well-spaced	referring to gills, corresponds to distant
white rot	a rot that removes both lignin and cellulose
zonate	with circular bands of differing colors or ornamentation