INTRODUCTION

Mushroom poisoning is a threat to lives of many mushroom collectors as due to look-alike characters of mushrooms. There fore it is important for all of us to be aware of some of the most poisonous mushrooms in our forest. Every year there are some deaths in the county by consuming poisonous mushrooms. It is therefore important that one can identify some of these mushrooms in the field. This brochure provides you with information on some of the poisonous mushrooms, their description and the symptoms of poisoning. It is safer not to consume mushrooms that you are not familiar with. There are also many look alike mushrooms. Do not collect and consume the mushroom that looks familiar but you are not sure of. Protect yourself and others by avoiding the mushroom that you are not able to identify properly. Applying popular myths can also be very dangerous where mushroom consumption is concerned.

Here is the description of a few poisonous mushrooms. In case of symptoms similar to mushroom poisonings indicated, seek medical help immediately.



Panaeolus papiliona-Habitat: Manure or in cow dongs.

Description: Cap campanulate or hemi-spheric, first brownish pink viscid then dry lucid white tinged with pink.

Stalk thin, tall, fragile, same color as cap and hollow.

Flesh thin, odor and flavor mild. Gills yellowish brown. Spore print black

Type of poisoning: Neurotoxins (Psilocybin poisoning)

Symptoms: Inebriation or hallucinations without drowsiness or sleep. Complete and spontaneous recovery within 5-10 hours; may take up to 24 hours with large doses.



Gymnopilius spectabilis **Common name**: Big laughing mushroom

Habitat: Usually in clusters around stumps and



Description: Cap yellow orange to yellow-ish buff to reddish brown, Stalk solid, firm, dry rusty orange to rusty yellow. Gills ochre-buff. Spore print rusty orange. Veil pale yellowish.

Type of poisoning: Neurotoxins (Psilocybin Poisoning)

Symptoms: Inebriation or hallucinations without drowsiness or sleep. Complete and spontaneous recovery within 5-10 hours; may take up to 24 hours with large doses.



Common name: Inky Cap Mushroom

Habitat: In tufts, terrestrial but associated with buried wood.

Description: Ovoid then conical and convex in old age. Stalk whitish. Gills crowded, white at first then black and soon deliquescing (becoming inky). Spore black. Smell faint and pleasant

Type of poisoning: Disulfiram-like toxins (Coprine converted to cyclopropanone hy-drate)

Symptoms: Flushing, palpitations, rapid heartbeat, rapid, labored breathing occur within 1/2 to 2 hours after consuming alcohol, if alcohol was consumed within 72 hours of mushroom ingestion (a short-lived acute toxic syndrome).

Recovery is spontaneous and complete within a few to several hours after onset of symptoms but its use is cautioned.



Common name: Deadly Cortinarius

Habitat: Conifers and oroad leaf

Description: Cap thin, depressed convex or with slightly umbonate, white later turning yellowish brown in the centre. Gills thick and whitish. Stalk whitish. Flesh white. Spore print white

Type of poisoning: Neurotoxins (Muscarin)

Symptoms: Excessive sweating, lacrimation, salivation, hallucination, excitement, convul-sion, etc, beginning 15-30 min after ingestion. Complete recovery within approximately 2 hours.



Amanita pantherina Common name: Pan-

Habitat: coniferous or deciduous forest.

ther cap

Description: Ochraceous brown covered with white warts. Stem white with ring and bulbous base within volva. Flesh white. Spore white

Type of poisoning: Neurotoxins (Muscarin)

Symptoms: Delirium with sleepiness or coma developing within 1 or 2 hours after ingestion.

Alternating periods of drowsiness and ex-citement for several hours, followed by total recovery.



Common name: Pinkish Coral Mushroom Habitat: Conifers and

Ramaria formosa

oak forest

Description: Profusely branched from a fleshy base (stalk), pinkish to pinkish-orange, salmon colored branches. Spore print pale ochraceous and taste bitter.

Type of poisoning: Protoplasmic poisons

Symptoms: Causes diarrhea.



Amanita virosa

Common name: Destroying angel

Habitat: mixed or deciduous forest

Description: Cap pure white. Stem white with ring with narrow base and volva. Gills and spore white . Flesh white.

Type of poisoning: Protoplasmic poisons; Onset delayed (6 h to 3 days after ingestion)

Organ affected: Liver & kidneys



Paxillus involutus Common name: Naked Brimcap/Brown Roll Rim.

> Habitat: Forms mycorrhizal associations with softwoods.

Description: At first broadly convex with strongly enrolled margin, then plane or cen-trally depressed with margin eventually un-furled. Surface viscid when moist. Flesh thick, firm, pale buff to yellowish. Gills usu-ally decurrent, crowded, pallid to pale yel-lowish becoming yellow brown. Stalk thick, equal or tapered at end, solid, firm. Spore print brown to yellowish brown.

Type of poisoning: Gastrointestinal irritants

Symptoms: Compounds that produce rapid, transient nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramping, and diarrhea.



Amanita muscaria Common name: Fly agaric Habitat: mixed temperate forest.

Description: Cap Bright scarlet covered with white warts. Stalk white with ring, base swollen but lacks the lose volva found in A. caesarea. Gills white with white spores Flesh white to yellowish.

Type of poisoning: Neurotoxins (Muscarin)

Onset: Rapid (15 min-4 h after ingestion)

Symptoms: Delirium with sleepiness or coma developing within 1 or 2 hours after ingestion. Alternating periods of drowsiness and ex-citement for several hours, followed by total recovery.



Gyromitra esculenta **Common name**: False morel

Habitat: Hard wood and conifers (spring or early summer)

Description: Cap irregularly lobed, brain like, reddish brown. Stalk pale flesh colored, faintly grooved, hollow in chambers.

Type of poison: Protoplasmic poisons (gyromitrin) **Symptoms:** Feeling of abdominal fullness and severe headache about 6 hours after ingestion, vomiting, no diarrhea. Complete recovery within 2-6 days; may require correction of metabolic acidosis; some deaths have occurred due to liver failure.



Common name: The Sickener Habitat: Mycorrhizal, mainly with softwoods in damp sites.

Russula emetica

Description: Broad round-convex becoming plane or broadly depressed. Surface viscid when moist, smooth bright red to scarlet, fad-ing with weather to pink, orange or blench white. Margin eventually striate. Flesh white (but pink under cuticle, brittle, odor mild, taste very acrid. Gills white or creamy white, brittle, close, adnate to adnexed or free. Stalk white. Spore print white

Type of toxin: Gastrointestinal irritants

Symptoms: Compounds that produce rapid, transient nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramping, and diarrhea.

For More Information Please Contact National Mushroom Centre, Tel: +975-2-351008, Fax: +975-2-351392 E-mail: nmc@druknet.bt

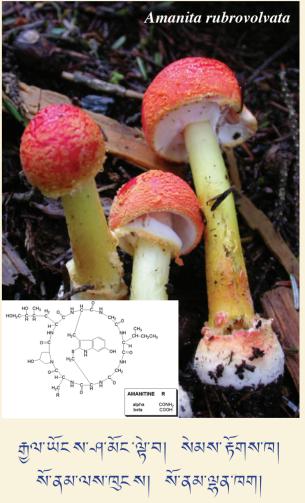








Mushroom poisonings (Symptomatic diagnoses)



National Mushroom Centre, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture.