



Fantastic fungi from Czech forests

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ABSTRACT

The Czechs' affinity for mushrooms has a rich historical background. Mushroom picking has been a long-standing tradition in the Czech areas. Mushrooms were formerly known as the "meat of the poor." The items were ubiquitous, and they were within the financial reach of everyone. Gathering mushrooms served as a vital means of sustenance throughout the period. Subsequently, it underwent a transformation into a recreational activity, and subsequently, it developed into a customary practice. This article presents a compilation of exquisite photographs of mushrooms found in different Czech forests, meticulously collected, and recorded by the authors.

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Introduction

Fungi have a crucial role in ecosystem functioning, but they have been neglected or given insufficient consideration in the majority of biodiversity policy papers, management plans, and official conservation programmes worldwide. This omission might be attributed to a widespread lack of knowledge among the scientific community, exacerbated by a shortage of educational programmes focused on mycology at the university level and a dearth of mycologists at research institutes. The progress of molecular methods in the systematic classification of fungi and their ability to provide valuable information on fungal communities is hindered by the limited number of expert mycologists in the field of environmental sciences, which in turn affects conservation efforts. On the other hand, citizen science projects are making substantial contributions to the field of mycology by raising awareness and expanding the range of fungal surveys. Subsequent investigations conducted by expert and non-professional scientists specialising in the study of fungi known as mycologists,

regarding the geographical spread of fungi and their role in ecosystems, would contribute to the identification of broader and more efficient objectives for conservation.

The conservation of all members of the forgotten kingdom (FUNGI) is constantly disregarded around the world. Mycologists are responsible for discussing these issues and communicating with the public and lawmakers, but what about amateur mycologists? This is a hefty burden, because even most scientists deny the true significance of fungi and their critical role in biome conservation, recycling, and protection. Getting the attention of decision makers is a difficult task for amateur mycologists, made even more difficult by the fact that national legislation is heavily focused on safeguarding plants and animals while disregarding fungi. The role of the amateur in the history of mycology in Czech dated back to the early nineteenth century.

The authors recorded many beautiful fruit bodies of a woodland habit while conducting field mycological study. From the standpoint of conservation, the authors documented the taxa by photography rather than collection.

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Fig 1. *Cyathus striatus*.



Fig 4. *Xylaria hypoxylon*.



Fig 2. *Tubaria furfuracea*.



Fig 3. *Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa*.



Fig 5. *Mycena crocata*.



Fig 6. *Mycena epipterygia*.



Fig 9. *Flammulina velutipes*.



Fig 7. *Schizophyllum commune*.



Fig 10. *Arachnopeziza aurelia*.



Fig 8. *Lentinus arcularius*.



Fig 11. *Gliophorus psittacinus*.



Fig 12. *Gymnopus androsaceus*.

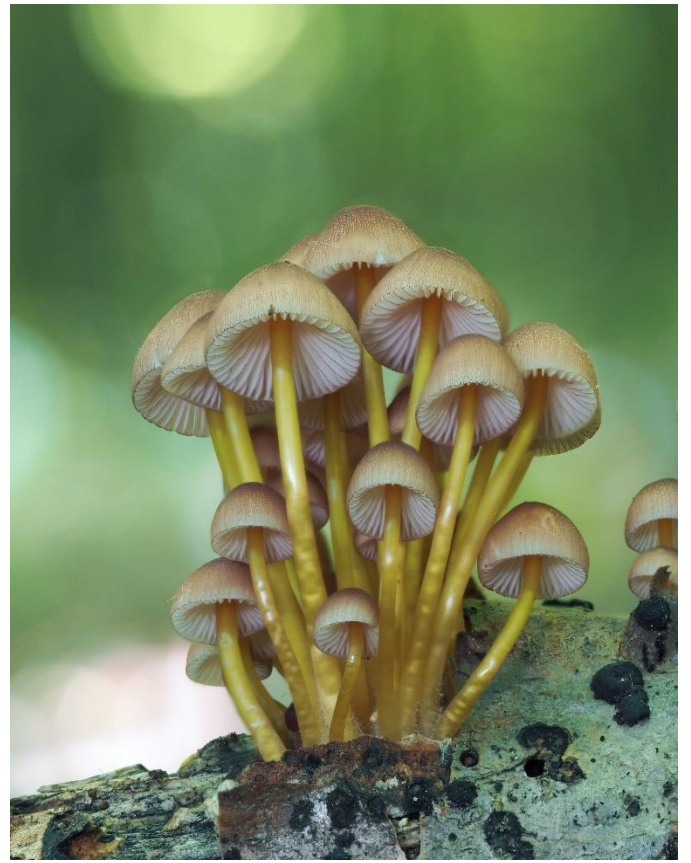


Fig 14. *Mycena renati*.



Fig 13. *Mycena sanguinolenta*.



Fig 15. *Roridomyces roridus*.



Fig 16. *Mycena* sp.



Fig 17. *Marasmius epiphylloides*.

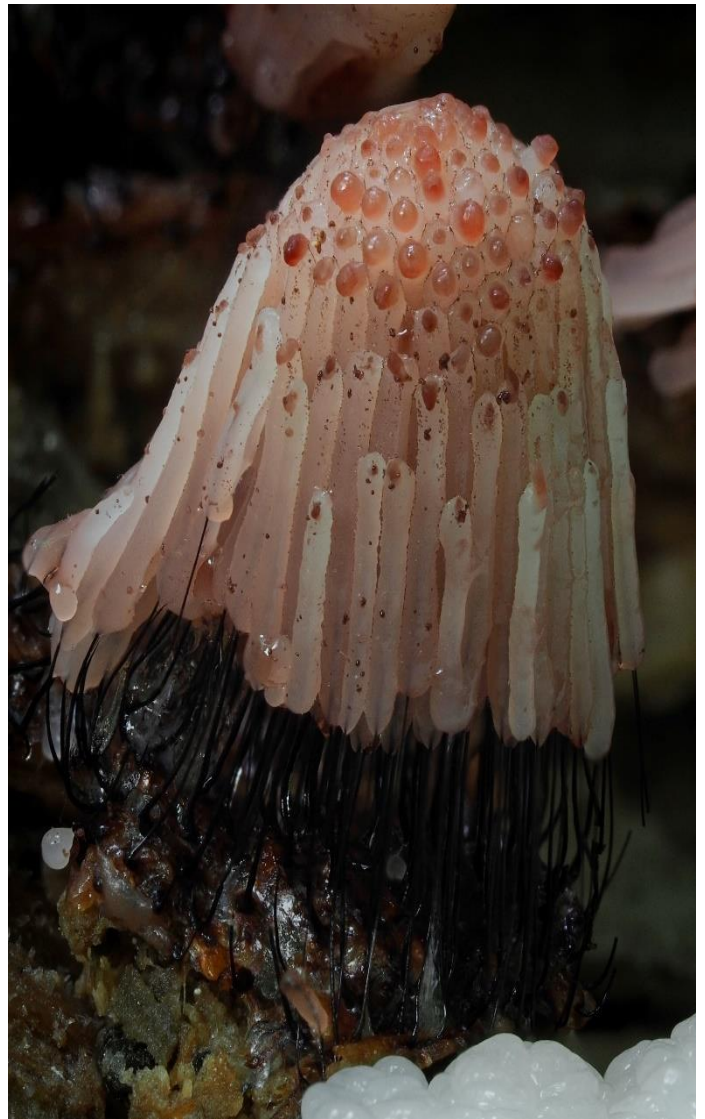


Fig 19. *Stemonitis* sp.



Fig 18. *Phallus impudicus*.



Fig 20. *Galerina marginata*.

Declaration of competing interest

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