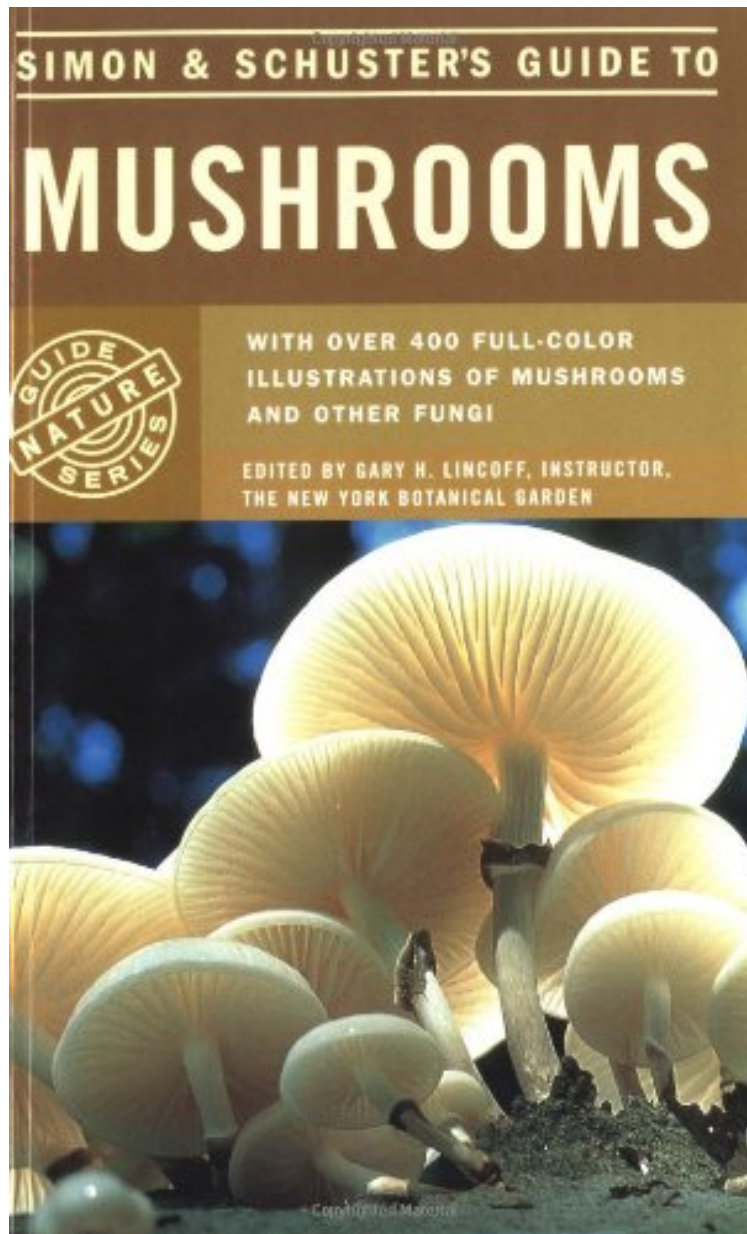


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Simon Schuster's Guide to Mushrooms (Nature Guide Series)

Gary H. Lincoff

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Gary H. Lincoff : Simon Schuster's Guide to Mushrooms (Nature Guide Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Simon Schuster's Guide to Mushrooms (Nature Guide Series):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is one of the best books on mushrooms containing hundreds of photos. By TrackerScout This is one of the best books on mushrooms containing hundreds of photos. Only one problem. This is older version with dull photos, if you want full glossy photos then search for the version that was made a year later. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Crabbypatty My husband is an avid mushroom hunter. Absolutely loves this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. In Search of Mushrooms By Bahram I was recently hiking in California and also looking for fungi. However, to make sure I can identify any fungi that I may encounter with certain amount of certainty, I needed a field book. Simon Schuster's Guide to Mushrooms was the only one that I found in a bookshop. I was pleased to find the book quite comprehensive both in the number of varieties that it covers, and the descriptions for identifying the mushrooms found. There are also quite a lot of good photographs but are mainly showing the cap and stem and rarely from underneath the cap, which is a weakness of this book. Although it is not specifically for the North American fungi, I find it a very useful reference and not too heavy to carry in a backpack.

Simon Schuster's Guide to Mushrooms is indispensable to anyone fascinated by mushrooms and other fungi. Lavishly illustrated, it contains detailed information about 420 types of mushrooms and other fungi found in the United States and Europe. The comprehensive introduction provides general information on the structure, reproduction, life cycles, classification, and distribution of the various species and describes the individual parts of the fungus as well. The entries describe the appearance, habitat, and geographic distribution of each species of fungi. The easy-to-use visual key provides each entry with immediately recognizable symbols that indicate spore color, ecological environment, and whether the species is edible or poisonous. A glossary and analytical index, plus an Index to Genera for locating particular subjects, help make this the most beautiful, valuable, and authoritative book in the field.

Language Notes Text: English, Italian (translation) Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Chapter 1 MUSHROOMS WITH SCALES ON CAP AND STEM 1 AMANITA CAESAREA Etymology From Latin, "of Caesar" or "regal," because it was a favorite of the early Roman Caesars. Description Cap 8-20 cm, hemispherical to flat, orange-red washing out to yellow, cuticle separable, sometimes with evident membranous remains of white veil, margin striate. Gills free, crowded, yellow. Stipe 8-15 x 2-3 cm, narrowing at top, hollow when mature, with yellow falling ring, slightly swollen at base, with large white membranous volva. Flesh whitish, yellowish beneath cuticle. Without evident odor. Spores white, elliptical, smooth, 8-14 x 5-8.5 microns. Edibility In Europe, excellent cooked. Habitat In airy parts of dry oak woods, in slightly acid ground, and with pines. Season Spring to autumn. Note The common North American form, which may be a distinct species, has a somewhat umbonate cap and a thinner (1-2 cm) yellow stripe, and occurs from eastern Canada to Florida and west to the central states; the same or a similar form occurs in the Southwest and Mexico. Caution A number of look-alikes of unknown edibility exist in North America. And what is called *A. caesarea* in North America is not generally regarded as choice. 2 AMANITA MUSCARIA Muscaria Common name Fly agaric. Etymology From Latin "of flies," because of the northern European custom of using the cap, soaked in milk, to kill or stupefy flies. Description Cap 8-25 cm, hemispherical to slightly concave, cuticle detachable, red, covered with white pyramidal warts which may be removed by rain, margin striate. Gills white, crowded, free. Stipe 12-25 x 1.5-2.5 cm, basal bulb with volva of several concentric warty rings, ring white, membranous. Flesh soft and white, orange-red beneath cuticle. Not very conspicuous odor. Spores white, ovoid, smooth, 9-11 x 6-8 microns. Edibility Fairly poisonous, depending on the season. Habitat In mountains under conifers and birch. Season Summer and fall. Note Although reported from Siberia as producing hallucinations, the red-capped North American variety which is found in northern forests and higher altitudes in the south, causes delirium, manic behavior and deep sleep, sometimes accompanied by profuse sweating. 3 AMANITA MUSCARIA Formosa Common name American fly agaric. Etymology From Latin, "handsome-looking." Description This variety has a yellowish to orange coloration, or has a tinge of red at the center. All the velar remains (ring, volva and warts) are white, and the description of *A. muscaria* (2) applies to this variety in all other respects. Edibility Toxicity appears to vary widely from place to place, and seems to lie for the most part in the cap cuticle. Habitat This variety is very common in North America, but becomes rarer, more stender, and tinged with a salmonlike coloration in the southern states. Moving west we also find the typical red-capped *A. muscaria*. Season Summer and autumn. Note Although the toxins in both varieties of this species are reportedly concentrated in the colored skin of the cap, peeling the mushroom does not render it harmless, and poisonings do occur. The hallucinations for which the red-capped Siberian variety is notorious do not seem to occur with either American variety; rather, the experience is often one of delirium and deep sleep, sometimes accompanied by profuse sweating. 4 AMANITA PHALLOIDES Common name Death cap. Etymology From Latin, "phalluslike," because of the shape of the carpophore in the early stages of growth. Description Cap 5-20 cm, subspherical to flat, rarely with membranous velar remains; fairly deep olive-green to olive-brown but paler toward margin, usually with dark innate radial fibrils. Gills white or slightly yellowish, quite crowded, free. Stipe 8-20 x 1-2 cm, tapering toward top, hollow when mature, white speckled with greenish gray stripes, white membranous ring, striate at top, base bulbous with large, white, membranous volva. Flesh white, but greenish yellow just beneath

cuticle. Odor first neutral, then nauseous. Spores white, ovoid to nearly round, smooth, 8-11 x 7-9 microns, amyloid. Edibility Deadly poisonous. Habitat With a preference for broadleaf trees, particularly oak, but also under pine and spruce. Season Late spring to late autumn. Note When cut, the outline of the carpophore is white, faintly green in the cuticle area. As little as one cap can prove fatal to an adult. Symptoms don't occur for about 10-12 hours (or longer). Although only recently confirmed in North America, it is now known from several eastern seaboard states and the Pacific coast. Copyright 1981 by Arnoldo Mondadori Editore S.p.A., Milano