# Some Mushrooms of Prince Albert

By E. BROOMAN, Prince Albert

Anyone who has worked at the 'Mushrooms' will appreciate the difficulties to be encountered in their classification. To begin with, texts are inadequate, the whole taxonomy is currently in a state of flux, and information on our local species is very difficult to obtain. In so far as we have been able to determine, very little serious work has been done on Central Saskatchewan Mushrooms.' Indeed, the little information that we were able to secure was at variance with our own experience.

Despite these difficulties, a small group from the P.A. Natural History Society set out to list some of the more common species in this area. Colored slides were taken by the photographers of the group, permanent microscope slides were prepared of the spores, and spore prints were made whenever possible. In addition to this, some water color plates were painted for future reference. No permanent collection of dried specimens was made because it was felt that preliminary work should be completed first.

'Keying out' the Mushrooms is a very trying experience. Usually it is not too difficult to establish the genus, but establishing the exact species is another matter. It may not be difficult to establish that one has a *Cortinarius*, for example, but to be certain of the particular *Cortinarius* is quite a difficult matter because of the variations within the species. A good example of this is the Fly Amanita (*Muscaria*). There appear to be some confusing variations here. Thus, one colored plate shows the stripe with "envelope" at the base, while another shows the base to be merely bulbous and without the volva. Thus, it is soon apparent that it is necessary to collect a great deal before one is in a position to be absolutely certain of one's identifications.

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Our list can be considered as a start. It includes only the more common species observed here during the past three years. Study of other species is continuing.

For easy reference, we have used the same nomenclature as employed by Gussow and Odell in their *Mushrooms and Toadstools*.

*manita muscaria*: Fly Agaric
*manita phalloides*: Death Angel
*epiota cristata*: Crested Lepiota
*rmillaria mellea*: Honey Agaric
*richoloma personatum*: Lilac-hued Tricholoma
*richoloma terreum*: Mouse-grey Tricholoma
*litocybe gigantea*: Giant Clitocybe
*actarius deliciosus*: Delicious Milky Cap
*actarius indigo*: Indigo Milky Cap
*ussula emetica*: Pungent Russula
*ussula lutea*: Lemon-yellow Russula
*ussula virescens*: Green Russula
*ygrophorus conicus*: Cone-shaped Hygrophorous
*leurotus ostreatus*: Oyster Mushroom
*leurotus ulmarius*: Elm Pleurotus
*holiotoa adiposa*: Sticky Pholiota
*holiota squarrosa*: Scaly Pholiota
*ortinarius alboviolaceus*: Silver - violet Cortinarius
*ortinarius cinnamomeus*: Cinnamon Cortinarius
*ortinarius violaceus*: Violet Cortinarius
*salliota arvensis*: Horse Mushroom
*salliota campestris*: Common Mushroom
*salliota silvicola*: Sylvan Mushroom

*Coprinus comatus*: Shaggy Mane
*Coprinus micaceus*: Glistening Coprinus
*Panaeolus solidipes*: Solid-stem Panaeolus
*Boletus chrysenteron*: Red-cracked Boletus
*Boletus retipes*: Netted-stem Boletus
*Polyporus sulphureus*: Sulphur Polypore
*Hydnum Caput-ursi*: Bear's Head Mushroom
*Clavaria aurea*: Golden Clavaria
*Clavaria cinerea*: Ashen Clavaria
*Clavaria pistillaris*: Indian Club Clavaria
*Auricularia auricula-Judea*: Jew's Ear
*Geaster triplex*: Earth Star
*Lycoperdon gemmatum*: Gemmed Puffball
*Lycoperdon pryiforme*: Pear-shaped Puffball
*Lycoperdon Wrightii*: Wright's Puffball
*Bovista pila*: Ball Bovista
Calvatia caelata: Carved Puffball
*Calvatia caelata*: Carved Puffball
*Cyanthus olla*: Bird's-nest Fungus
*Morchella angusticeps*: Slender-capped Morel
*Morchella bispora*: Two-spored Morel
*Morchella esculenta*: Common Morel
*Helvella crispa*: Flute-stemmed Helvella
*Helvella elastica*: Smooth-stemmed Helvella
*Helvella lacunosa*: Black-capped Helvella
*Geopyxis craterium*: Black Goblet.

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# How to Collect and Press Plants

By GEORGE F. LEDINGHAM, Regina

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some members have asked for a series of short informative articles explaining how to begin the study of plants, birds, insects, etc. In response to one of these requests I have prepared a few notes on pressing plants. In this issue, we also have some notes from a series of three lectures given to the Prince Albert Natural History Society by A. O. Aschim on "Collecting Moths and Butterflies As a Hobby," and a short article on "The Amateur Astronomer" by John Hodges of the Regina Astronomical Society. In the September *Blue Jay*, we hope to have a report of an interview with Maurice Street telling how to become a bird watcher.

Collecting plants means different things to different people. Some people collect plants and grow them in their garden. When this is done on a large scale, we have an arboretum. Other people collect plants for the purpose of pressing them and making a collection of dried specimens. Such a collection arranged in plant families and available for reference or other scientific study is known as a herbarium.

Why don't you make a collection of the plants growing in your district? You will find plant collecting an interesting hobby. You will find, too, that your interest in plants grows as you learn more about them. Dried plants, if properly cared for, will keep indefinitely and if they are correctly identified you will have something really valuable. Many people will want to see your collection, for this is the easiest way for them to learn the correct names of the plants.

The first step is the study of the specimen in the field. Here you must first look around to be sure that there are more than just one plant of this kind growing in the area. Now you can take out your notebook and assign a number to the plant. Describe the plant if you do not know its name and mention any variations that you notice in the plants. It is well to make notes on color for this sometimes changes in drying. Now record the date and the location. It is important, too, to record the other plants which are growing in this spot for plants do tend to grow in recognized associations.

The second step is the collecting. Except in the case of trees or shrubs where a part of the branch bearing fruit or flowers is sufficient, the entire plant, including roots, should be taken. If the ground is soft and the plant is an annual, pulling the plant may give sufficient roots. If the plant is a perennial, especially if it spreads by underground rootstocks, or if the ground is hard as it usually is on our open grassy prairies, then a trowel or other digging tool must be used to prevent breaking of the plant.

The third step is the pressing. One does not need elaborate apparatus for this job. Some use big old books with soft absorbent paper, and if you are only collecting a few plants this will do very well for you. Most collectors use old newspapers; tear a standard newspaper sheet in half and fold it once to give a size of not more than 12 by 18 inches. Sheets of newspaper, each containing one specimen, may be separated by blotting paper or corrugated cardboard. This pile of papers and driers must be weighted down by some flat weight