

Harms for checking over this article and giving helpful suggestions.

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FUNGI PRESERVING

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Many of us in wandering in the woods in spring, summer or autumn find interesting fungi and wonder what are their names. For identification, specimens have to be collected and preserved. The process is surprisingly simple if the following steps are taken:

1. Collect a few of the best looking specimens. Avoid spoiled ones.
2. Lay them gills down in a basket, paper bag or box. (Do not use plastic bags!)
3. Carefully remove all the soil you can from the stem.
4. At home lay them on newspaper in an airy place.
5. Move them around a bit on the newspapers each day to prevent sticking.
6. Various larvae will emerge and die on the papers — shake them off.

There is hardly anything known about these insects in Canada. They develop into various delicate winged flies, some are Mycetophilids, Others ???

7. In about a week the fungi will dry completely and now will last indefinitely.
8. Each kind should be placed into an envelope or you can make packets by folding writing paper. The following information should be written on each: Location — Be specific to one-half mile; date of collection; the collector.
9. Number each collection.
10. Keep a note book — jot down other information on your specimens with the collection number. Changes occur in the drying process. Record the color of any spores that may have been released by the specimen as it dried.
11. Store your specimens, standing up, in shoe boxes in a dry place. They take little space and store well anywhere books can be kept.
12. Photographing prior to drying the same specimen would enhance the value of the specimens considerably.

I would be willing to name any fungi specimens sent to me. I have used this method since 1950 and have good specimens that require a minimum of attention.