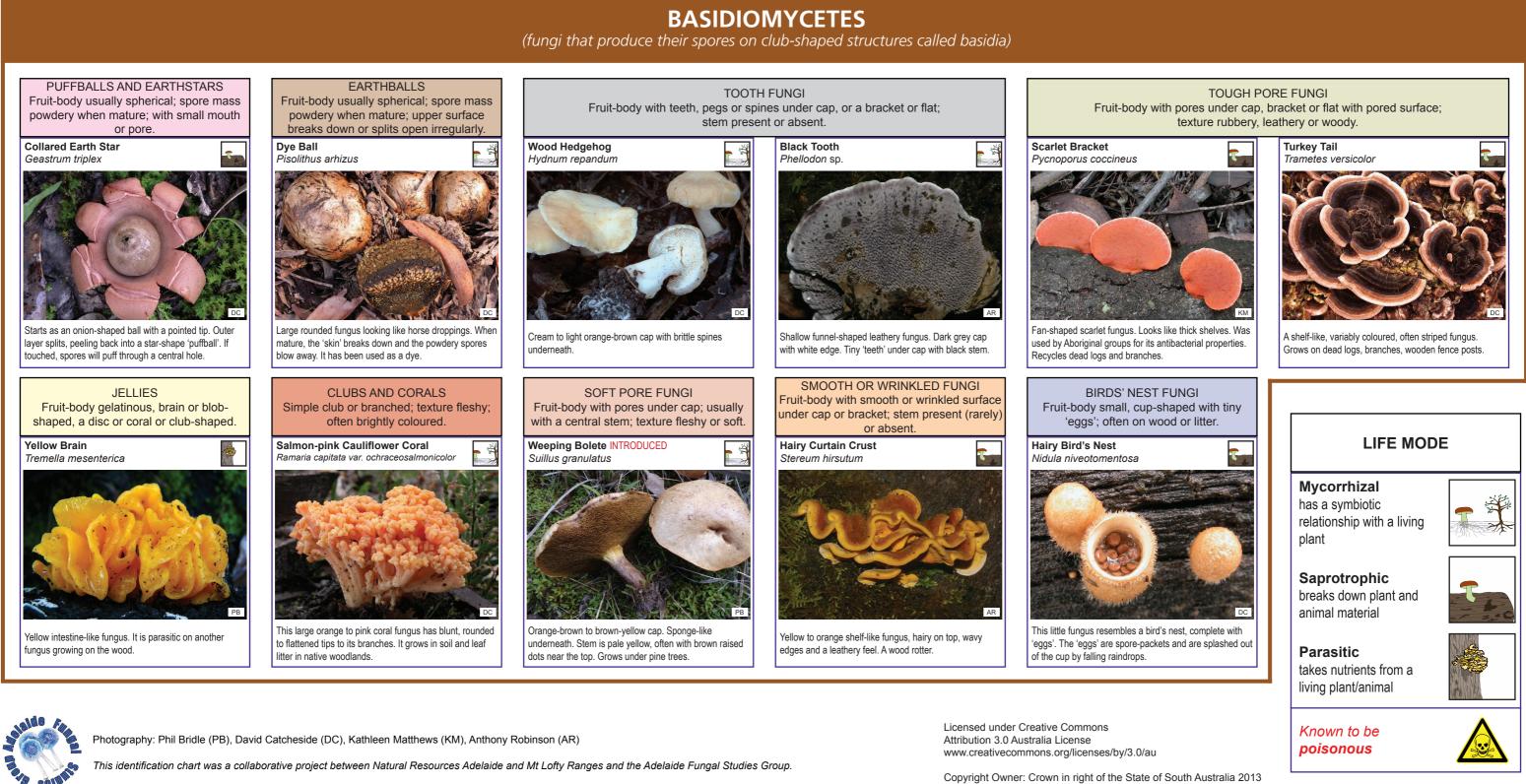
Fungi of the Limestone Coast

Fungi play important roles in all ecosystems from our backyards and school grounds to forests, heath and deserts. Many fungi are recyclers, helping break down dead plant and animal material and putting nutrients back into the soil. Many others form essential partnerships with trees and other plants with the fungi collecting nutrients and water from the soil and passing them to roots. In return the plants provide energy-giving sugars. Fungi may be present all year round but are most common in autumn and winter, particularly following rain. It is important that we don't damage fungi otherwise they can't continue their important roles.

We know very little about the edibility or toxicity of native fungi. There is no safe way you can tell which ones are safe to eat. DO NOT EAT ANY FUNGUS FROM THE WILD. If you touch a fungus, always wash your hands afterwards.







BASIDIOMYCETES

(fungi that produce their spores on club-shaped structures called basidia)

GILLED FUNGI Fruit-body with gills under cap, usually with a stem.

Yellow Stainer INTRODUCED Agaricus xanthodermus



phous. Large fungus with squarish cap. Cap and stem of young specimens turn yellow if scratched. Has a phenolic/carbolic smell.



oisonous. Large scarlet fungus with white warts on cap and frilly ring on the stem. Traditionally used to attract and kill flies. Often grows under pines.

Mauve Splitting Waxcap Porpolomopsis lewelliniae



This beautiful lilac mushroom is one of the Waxcaps, fungi with waxy caps, gills and stems. The cap splits radially as it ages.

GILLED FUNGI

Fruit-body with gills under cap, usually with a stem.

Vermilion Grisette Amanita xanthocephala

4



Warty fungus with a yellow to orange cap and no ring on the stem. Look for orange around base of stem. Grows around Eucalyptus trees.

Yellow Navel

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Although this looks like fungus - it is not. It is a lichen (an essential partnership between a fungus and an alga). Grows on bare soil.

Spectacular Rust Gill Gymnopilus junonius

Green Skinhead

Cortinarius austrovenetus

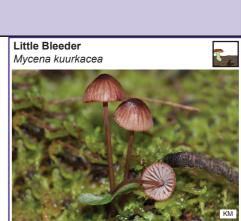
A large fungus with an orange to brown cap and a ring on Green cap and mustard yellow stem. Green is not a its stem. Forms colourful clusters on dead logs, stumps common colour in fungi



First emerges from the ground as a white scaly cylinder, the cap opens up, becoming bell-shaped. The gills gradually turn to black liquid. It was used as writing ink.



Bright purple fungus that turns slightly brown as it ages. can be found under Eucalyptus trees.



Small brown fungus with cone-shaped cap. When stem is broken it bleeds a clear red liquid. Grows on dead wood and bark.

STINKHORNS

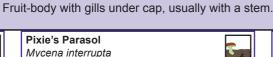
Fruit-body a cage, egg, sea-star or phalloid (contained within an egg at first); spore mass slimy, often foul-smelling.

Ghoul Fungus Hebeloma aminophilum

and at the base of trees.



inkish brown to cream cap. Grows near rotting animals or bones - can sometimes grow out of decomposing animal bodies. Aminophilum means 'ammonia lover'.



GILLED FUNGI



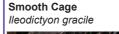
A rare fungus in South Australia. Blue cap with a white stem. Grows on dead logs and tree trunks.



Purple, slightly dish-shaped caps. Gills are mustard yellow. The stem breaks like chalk.



Bright red fungus. Looks like a starfish on a white stalk. Slimy and smells like rotting meat which attracts flies.





A white smelly fungus that grows like a web in the shape of a cage. Can detach from its base and roll along the ground.



CUPS AND DISCS Fruit-body a cup or disc; usually small.

Stalked Orange Peel Fungus Sowerbyella rhenana



The bright orange cups sit on short stalks, unlike the Orange Peel Fungus, Aleuria aurantia, which has flatter discs and is stalkless.

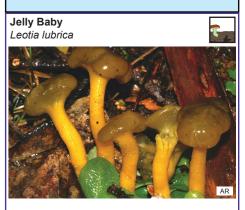
HARD DISCS, CUSHIONS AND BALLS Fruit-body disc, cushion or ball-shaped; hard; often with small dots on surface.

Dung Buttons Poronia erici



A hard, button-like, white-grey fungus dotted with tiny star-shaped holes. Spores are released through these holes. The fungus grows on marsupial dung.

PINS Pin-shaped fruit body; texture fleshy, gelatinous or tough.



Yellow to green gelatinous fungus with a rounded 'cap' on a stem.

