



FIRST STEPS

THE JARGON EXPLAINED AND ILLUSTRATED

'Here are a few of the unpleasant'st words that ever blotted paper!' (Merchant of Venice, III, ii, 160)

This glossary is aimed at the beginner. It makes no pretence to completeness but should help to understand many of the words used in describing fungi. The glossary often included in the books and keys should also be consulted. For a fuller treatment refer to Ainsworth & Bisby's *Dictionary of the Fungi* (Edit. 7, 1983).

The following terms apply mostly to the 'Agarics' i.e. the fungi of the orders Agaricales, Boletales and Russulales. The terms used in the description of the Aphyllophorales and the larger Ascomycetes will appear in a later part.

In this first part the more general terms will be defined and succeeding parts will cover the more specialised terminology.

THE WHOLE FRUITBODY

Fruitbody: that part of the fungus which is above the substrate (Fig. 1).

Carpophore: = fruitbody.

PARTS OF THE FRUITBODY ABOVE, OR PARTLY IMMERSSED IN, THE SUBSTRATE

Annulus: = Ring.

Apex: the very top of the stem (Fig. 1a).

Base: the very bottom of the stem (Fig. 1b).

Bulb: a significant swelling of the base of the stem (Fig. 1c).

Cap (= Pileus): the hymenium-bearing part (Fig. 1d).

Cortex: more or less thick outer layer where there is differentiation from an inner layer (used mainly in relation to the stem) (Fig. 1e).

Cuticle (also Cutis): outer layer of cap and stem (Fig. 1f) consisting of compressed tissue elements (hyphae).

Disc: the central part of the cap (Fig. 1g).

Flesh (= Trama): the inner tissues of the fruitbody (Fig. 1h).

Gill (= lamella): spore-bearing, vertical plate on the underside of the cap (Fig. 1i, 2a), consisting of the outer hymenium and the inner trama.

Hymenium: the spore-bearing layer of the gills, tubes or spines, i.e. the layer of basidia and other cells.

Hymenophore: = the whole fruit-body, or confusingly, only the sum total of the gills, tubes or teeth.

Lamella (plural: lamellae): = gill.

Lamellule: a gill which is shorter than the normal gill (Fig. 1j, 2b).

Lamellula (plural: lamellulae): = lamellule.

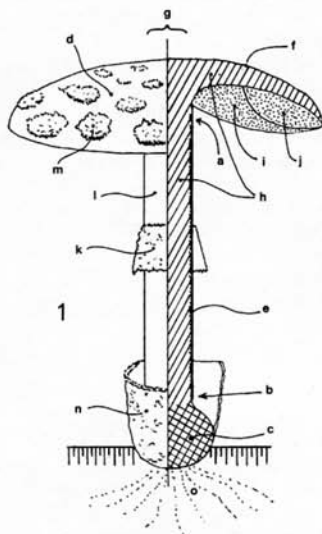


Fig. 1. The fruitbody.

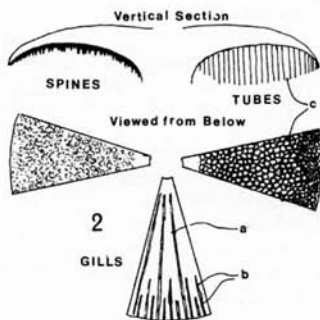


Fig. 2. Spore-bearing structures.

Lumen: the central cavity of, say, a hollow stem (Fig. 3a).

Peronate: used to describe a stem which is sheathed with a sock from the base to the ring (Fig. 3b).

Pileus: = cap.

Pore: the mouth of a tube (Fig. 2c).

Ring (= Annulus): remnant on the stipe of the partial veil (Fig. 1k).

Sessile: without a stem.

Spines: spore-bearing structures, +/- sharp tooth-like (Fig. 2).

Stem (= stipe): the part supporting the cap (Fig. 1).

Stipe: stem, hence **stipitate**, having a stem.

Trama: = flesh.

Tubes: spore-bearing structures in the shape of minute vertical pipes, of cross-section cylindrical or not (as seen in the Boletes and Polypores) (Fig. 2).

Veil, partial: layer of tissue which joins the cap margin to the stem (Fig. 4a) and of which remnants may remain on the stem as a ring or hanging from the cap margin.

Veil, universal: layer of tissue covering the whole fruit-body in early stages of growth (Fig. 4b), remains of which may be seen as scales on the cap (Fig. 1m) and the volva at the base of the stem (Fig. 1n).

Volva: remains of the universal veil, taking the form of a more or less well-defined cup (Fig. 1n), of rings or just soft lumps at the base of the stem.

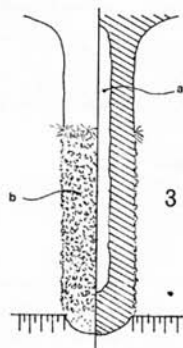


Fig. 3. A hollow, peronate stem.

PARTS BURIED IN THE SUBSTRATE

Mycelium: the assemblage of fine filaments (hyphae, see next part) running through the substrate, being the vegetative part of the fungus (Fig. 1o).

Rhizomorph: an aggregation of mycelial filaments into a root-like structure, e.g. *Tricholomopsis platyphylla*.

Sclerotium: a firm, frequently rounded, mass of mycelial filaments, from which some fungi arise.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SUBSTRATE

Coprophilous: growing on dung.

Humicolous: growing on humus.

Lignicolous: growing on wood.

Muscicolous: growing on moss.

Saprophytic: growing on a part of a dead organism.

Substrate: the substance, live or dead, from which the fungus is drawing its food.

Terricolous: growing on soil.

Parasitic: growing on a part of a live organism.

Symbiotic: growing in association with another organism to their mutual benefit, e.g. in Lichens.

Mycorrhiza: a symbiotic association of a fungus with the roots of a plant.

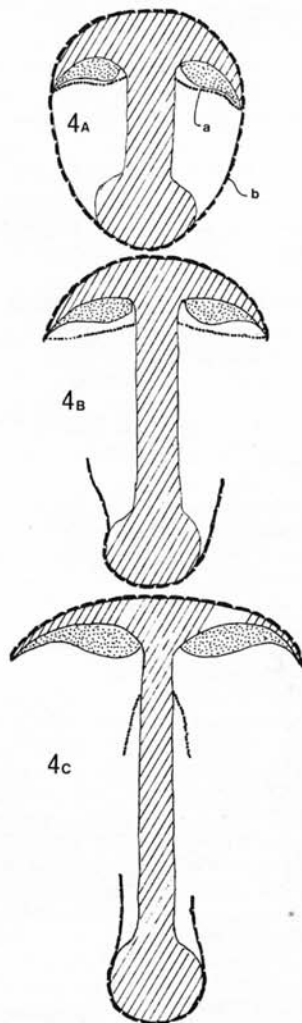


Fig. 4. Schema of universal and partial veils and their fates.