

Fungus book list

Compiled by ANNE ANDREWS

There are over 3000 species of larger fungi in the UK. Of course some are very uncommon and some barely noticeable. But you will understand that a handbook containing say 1500 species is more likely to give you a right answer than one with only 200 or 300 species. There are all too many of these. I do not recommend books by Michael Jordan and there is a recent book by Stefan Buczacki which has had very mixed reviews. A book covering only British species means you avoid identifying your find as something that is not found in this country but there is a considerable overlap with the fungi of north-west Europe so the French books can be very useful.

Collins Complete Guide to British Mushrooms and Toadstools Paul Sterry and Barry Hughes, Collins 2009

This is the field guide I'd recommend at the moment. It's fairly up to date, has 1500 species, mostly good photos and useful sections at the front and back

Mushrooms Roger Phillips, Macmillan 2006

This is also a reliable handbook and fairly up to date but too big to comfortably take out and not a very attractive book. The earlier 1981 edition is much nicer and worth having if you find a cheap copy but it is not so up to date of course.

Mushrooms and Toadstools of Britain and Europe R. Courtcuisse and B. Duhem, Collins 1995

Though quite old now and out of print this is also useful as is Marcel Bon's Mushrooms and Toadstools of Britain and NW Europe. It is also available in the original French. A new English edition is promised.

Mushroom Miscellany Patrick Harding, Collins 2008

Full of general information about fungus, interesting and nicely produced. Still quite cheap on Amazon

Fungi Brian Spooner and Peter Roberts, New Naturalist, Collins 2005

This probably covers much the same ground as Mushroom Miscellany but in much more detail and greater depth and may be quite expensive now.

Identification of the Larger Fungi Roy Watling, Hulton 1973

A helpful introduction to how to go about identifying fungi. Probably out of print.

NEW BOOK 2017

Mushrooms and Toadstools of Britain and Europe

Volume 1, Geoffrey Kibby, ISBN 978-0- 0572094-2- 8

If you think your interest in fungus will continue I'd recommend getting this book if you feel reasonably rich (£35). It is the first of two volumes, the next to appear in a year or two.

Geoffrey Kibby is probably the best field mycologist in the country at the moment and also a talented painter. This book covers boletes, russulas, lactarius, puffballs, earthstars, stinkhorns, chanterelles, toothed fungi, coral fungi, polypores and crust fungi, that is everything except agarics. Each species is illustrated by a painting often with a line drawing of a detail and an indication of the substrate or associated tree. There is a useful general introduction as well as an introduction to each group and a detailed description of each species. All the names are the most up to date ones at present. Fortunately a lot of progress can be made with many of these species without resorting to a microscope. The book is a hardback with 227 pages, 25x17cm, so too big and heavy to take into the field.