

IDENTIFICATION CHART FOR IMPORTANT FORM GROUPS OF MACROFUNGI

Fungi with fruitbodies that can be seen with the naked eye are called macrofungi. They belong to the fungal groups (phyla) Ascomycota and Basidiomycota. Amongst the Ascomycota we find the discomycetes (i.e. morels, truffles and cup fungi), the pyrenomycetes and more. Amongst the Basidiomycota we find the agarics (gilled fungi), boletes, polypores, club fungi and more.

The purpose of a fruitbody is to produce and spread the sexual spores. Within the Ascomycota these spores are produced in sacs (asci) while the Basidiomycota produce the spores on structures called basidia. In many fruitbodies the asci or basidia are placed in a palisade structure called a hymenium. In the discomycetes (Ascomycota) the hymenium will normally be situated at the upper

side of the fruitbody. In the pyrenomycetes (Ascomycota) the asci are found inside small spherical or oblong fruitbodies called perithecia. Also the small group of gasteromycetes (Basidiomycota) forms the spores inside. All remaining Basidiomycota mostly have the hymenium on a downwards pointing surface (i.e. below a cap) either on a more or less flat surface, on gills, spines or in pores.

