

Accurate and timely identification of fungi exposures improves risk assessment and guides clinical management

Is identification of fungi required?

1. Obtain information about the site of fungus harvesting (particularly the presence or absence of oak trees)
2. Obtain information regarding patient's symptoms
3. Contact the Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26
4. Fungi identification Apps are not reliable and are not recommended

Taking images of fungi

1. Take at least two photographs of the fungus from different angles
2. Ensure good lighting and focus
3. Fill the viewfinder frame with the fungus being photographed
4. Take photos of the most complete specimen with views from the top, side (with whole length of the stem) and the underside of the cap (gills)
5. Include an item for scale, for example a coin or a ruler

Collecting and storing samples of fungi

1. Pick the whole fungus, including the base and any underground portion
2. Wrap the fungus loosely in a piece of paper towel / tissue paper
3. Place the material in a sealed plastic container or paper bag

Do not store the fungi within a plastic bag, as the tissue will deteriorate

4. Seal the container and label it to prevent others from ingesting it
5. Refrigerate the material at 4-8 degrees Celsius until transported

Features of *Amanita Phalloides* (most toxic fungi that grows in Victoria)

- Lamellae (gills) white
- Pileus (cap) whitish, yellow, pale brown or green, 40-160 mm in diameter
- Annulus (ring) present on stipe
- Volva (cup) present at base of stipe
- In Australia, *Amanita Phalloides* is usually found growing near oak trees

