ACT Government
Health

Death Cap Mushroom

Amanita Phalloides

The Death Cap Mushroom is a deadly, poisonous introduced fungus that is responsible for 90% of all deaths related to mushroom consumption. There have been 4 fatalities and 12 reported incidents of poisoning associated with Death Cap Mushroom in the ACT[1].

Description

Cap: 40-160mm wide, may be white, but usually pale green to yellow in colour, or fawn if the mushroom is older, or located in full sun. The cap can be slippery or sticky to touch, and shiny when dry.

Gills: White, crowded and not attached to stalk.

Stalk: Normally white in colour, but may be pale green. Up to 15cm long with a papery cup shaped volva at the base (often buried in the ground). Normally a skirt-like ring is present high on the stem.

Distinctive Features: The white gills, cup-like volva and high skirt like ring help to distinguish the Death Cap Mushroom.

Occurrence: South Eastern Australia.

Habitat: Commonly found near established oak trees and possibly others, usually during later summer to early winter, after good rain or heavy irrigation.

Toxicity: Extremely poisonous. One Mushroom contains enough poison to kill an adult. Cooking or peeling does not make the mushroom safe to eat, and all parts are poisonous.

Symptoms

Onset of symptoms occurs 6-24 hours or more after ingestion of mushrooms. Symptoms include violent stomach pains, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Symptoms may subside for 1 to 2 days giving a false impression of recovery. However, by this stage the toxin will have already caused serious liver damage. Death from liver failure can occur many days after ingestion.

(1) From 1999-2014

INFORMATION

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Medical Treatment

A person who suspects they may have eaten poisonous mushrooms should seek immediate medical attention at a hospital emergency department. Where possible take a whole mushroom sample for identification. The sooner the treatment begins, the better the chances of survival.

Further information and assistance if poisoning is suspected can be sought by calling the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 (24 hours a day, seven days a week).

Known Locations of the Death Cap Mushroom in the ACT

Acton	Ainslie	Braddon
Commonwealth Park	Deakin	Dickson
Griffith	Latham	O'Connor
Red Hill	Reid	Turner
Yarralumla		

*For absolute safety, avoid picking or eating **any** wild mushrooms*

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