

Coprinoid Mushrooms

Coprinoid mushrooms (also known as inky caps or inkcaps) are a type of mushroom that can be found throughout Victoria. One characteristic of most inkcaps is that their gills liquefy with age. Inkcaps can be categorized into four genera- Coprinus, coprinopsis, coprinellus, and parasola.

Species in each genus:

Parasola:

- *Parasola plicatilis* (pleated inkcap)

Coprinopsis:

- *Coprinopsis Lagopus* (hare's foot inkcap)
- *Coprinopsis atramentaria* (common inkcap)

Coprinellus:

- *Coprinellus micaceus* (mica cap)

Coprinus:

- *Coprinus comatus* (shaggy mane or shaggy inkcap)



Left: Mica cap (*Coprinellus micaceus*), Above: Unknown, Bottom left: Common inkcap (*Coprinopsis atramentaria*), Below: Hare's foot inkcap (*Coprinopsis lagopus*).



| <i>Species</i> | <i>Cap</i> | <i>Stalk/stipe</i> | <i>Gills</i> | <i>Habitat Description</i> |
|--------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Mica cap | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tan brown cap with furrow lines -Often has small glistening particles on the very top (hence the name mica cap) -Brown furrow lines radiate from the top downward -Shaped like a simple bell | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -White -Hollow -Very smooth, with no partial veil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Either attached or free -White when young, eventually turns black as it matures -Gills also deliquesce with age and turn into a black, gooey mess | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Grow in dense clumps -On ground around rotting wood (they are saprobic) -Moist environment |
| Common inkcap | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Round, before turning into a bell shape -Starts brown and eventually turns black | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -White | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tightly packed gills -White at first, before eventually becoming black before autodigesting -Free from stalk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Saprobic, so it likes growing around the bases of trees and on old, decomposing wood -Grows also around woodland trails/footpaths |
| Pleated inkcap | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pale grey with a round tawny brown circle on the very top right in the center -Heavily ribbed -Starts in a round shape, and as it matures the cap spreads out flat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Very fragile -Slightly bigger around base -Cream or white, brownish near the base | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Start white and eventually turn black with age -Thin and spaced out -Gills deliquesce with age, turning into a gooey, black mess. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Short lived -Often found on lawns and sometimes leaf litter and woodchips (they are saprobic) |
| Hare's foot inkcap | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Light grey -Starts off egg shaped, then becomes flat, and eventually the edges turn upwards. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -White -Hollow -Frail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Thin and spaced out, free from the stipe -Deliquesce, starting from the edges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Short lived -Grows in leaf litter and wood mulch |

Sources:

<https://northernbushcraft.com/mushrooms/micaCap/notes.htm>

<http://www.fungikingdom.net/articles-by-dianna-smith/coprinoid-mushrooms/index.html>

<https://www.liveoutdoors.com/hunting/233803-ink-caps-common-lawn-mushroom-and-choice-wild-edible/>

<http://www.fungusfactfriday.com/192-coprinellus-micaceus/>

<https://www.first-nature.com/fungi/parasola-plicatilis.php>

<https://www.first-nature.com/fungi/coprinopsis-atramentaria.php>

<https://www.first-nature.com/fungi/coprinopsis-lagopus.php>

Photos taken by Mohannah Singh

Really Good Site for Identification:

<https://www.first-nature.com/fungi/~id-guide.php>