

# Identification of Mushrooms: more than the sum of their parts

## Features of Mushrooms useful for Identification

- Spore Print Color
- Cap
- Gills, Pores, Teeth
- Stem
- Partial Veil
- Universal Veil
- Odor and Taste
- Chemical Reactions
- Habit (how it grows)
- Ecology, Habitat
- Microscopic Characters
- Molecular Characters, DNA

## Spore Print Colors

- “White” = pale colors: white, buff, cream, yellow, lilac, green, light pink.
- “Pink” = dark pinkish, salmon, brownish pink
- “Brown” = ochre, rust brown, earth or clay brown, orange.
- Dark spores = chocolate brown, purplish brown, black

## Cap = Pileus – The pileus supports and protects the hymenium (gills, pores, teeth)

- Shape and margin
- Dimensions (how broad)
- Surface topography
- Surface vestiture (covering)
- Surface wetness
- Veil remnants
- Context (flesh)
- Texture
- Colors and staining or bruising
- Chemical reactions

## Stem, Stalk = Stipe – The stipe elevates the cap and positions it relative to gravity

- Shape and base
- Dimensions (length and width)
- Surface topography
- Surface vestiture (covering)
- Surface wetness
- Veil remnants
- Context (flesh)
- Texture
- Colors and staining or bruising
- Chemical reactions

## Gills = Lamellae – The spore-producing layer, the hymenium, is on the sides of the gills

- Attachment
- Spacing
- Lamellulae (short gills)
- Margin
- Breadth
- Dimensions
- Texture
- Colors, staining

See Michael Kuo: **Studying Mushrooms** at <http://www.mushroomexpert.com>

Please visit Patrick Leacock at <http://www.mycoguide.com>