

A Scientific Advisory Committee sets research objectives and the target species. Committee members are: Tom May (convenor), Jack Simpson, Cheryl Grgurinovic, and Bruce Fuhrer. Two FUNGIMAP members provide important voluntary support to the project—John Julian in his role as the Executive Officer of the project assists with administration, publicity and fund raising. John also edits the FUNGIMAP newsletter. Pat Grey is the Records Coordinator, and maintains the various databases involved in keeping track of recorders, the batches of records, and the individual records.

Included herein is a sample FUNGIMAP newsletter, in which is a list of the 50 target species, and also details of the request for dung samples.

Anyone interested in receiving the newsletter should contact FUNGIMAP, National Herbarium of Victoria, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra, Victoria 3141. All records of target species are most welcome, and should be sent to the same address.

Tom May

TOADSTOOL CAUSES BROKEN BONE

Sophie Ducker

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Some years ago I participated in a survey of toadstools and mushrooms in the State of Victoria. To my joy, in season, there was a prolific harvest of a wonderful diversity of fungi. However, it was a real nightmare to name these, because at that time there was no fungal flora of Victoria or New South Wales. Hence we had to rely on fungal floras from South Australia or from overseas countries. As there was so little known about the local fungal flora in general, I thought it useful to record, if possible also the taste and smell of the members of the collection. Most certainly I did not taste any reputedly poisonous fungi. I kept clear of such poisonous species as *Amanita muscaria* or *Amanita phalloides*, both known to me from my European experience. Cooking a dish of what I believed to be *Lactarius deliciosus* proved very disappointing because the Victorian representatives of this delicious overseas fungus found under pine trees was terribly bitter when cooked.

Before most of the fungi were dried for herbarium specimens or ground up for antibiotic testing, I had the habit of tasting small pieces of the pileus. I was delighted to meet for the first time the most attractive *Amanitopsis pulchella* [now *Amanita xanthocephala*]. *Amanitopsis* was recorded as not poisonous in both the South Australian and overseas books. Trustingly I tasted. I was so dreadfully ill during the night that I broke my toe rushing to the bathroom. To save your bones: do not eat a white-spored toadstool with a volva and even a suspicion of an annulus!

A NEW SOCIETY—SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGISTS

A new Society has been formed in Australia to represent and foster the interests systematics and systematists. It encompasses the broad interests and activities of those working in the areas of taxonomy, phylogenetics, biogeography and evolutionary biology, of all groups of organisms and with specific reference to the Australasian region. The Society operates only by email and has NO MEMBERSHIP FEES. To join please send your full name, postal address, taxon group/interests, email address, phone number and fax number to the Society's Secretary, Dr David Morrison <davidm@iris.bio.uts.edu.au>. Details about the Society and its inaugural conference, to be held in Adelaide 29 September–3 October 1997, can be found on the Society's Home page <<http://www.science.uts.edu.au/sasb/>>.

A. Austin

EDUCATION NETWORK

This network (see *Australasian Mycological Newsletter* 15(4): 72 (1996) has been established and anyone interested in contributing should contact Peter McGee <peterm@bio.usyd.edu.au>.