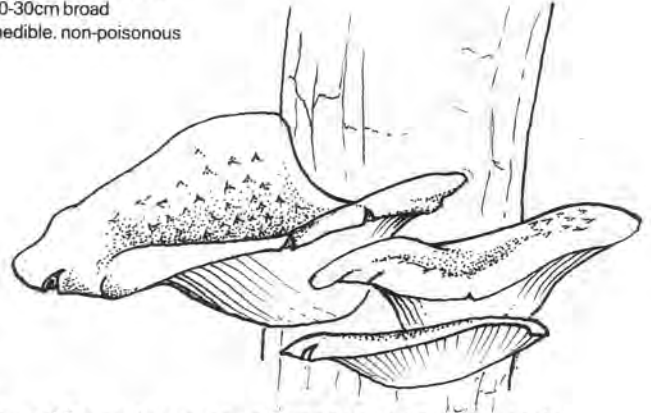


# Fungi and Mosses

**Lawyer's Wig**  
*Coprinus comatus*  
 May-Nov. Fields, roadsides  
 5-12cm high  
 Edible



**Dryads Saddle**  
*Polyporus squamosus*  
 April-Dec. On old trees  
 10-30cm broad  
 Inedible, non-poisonous



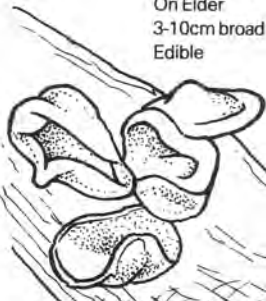
Fungi ('mushroom and toadstools' and moulds) are now regarded as neither plants nor animals. Almost all plants can use the sun's energy, fungi cannot. They get their food from dead or living plants and animals.

We see only the 'fruit'. In the ground, or the tree, is a mass of threads, usually white. This is the 'mycelium'. It takes in food and water, even when the fungus is not fruiting. Fungi produce dust-like spores, carried by the wind, which grow new fungi. Squeeze a ripe puffball and a cloud of spores shoots out. Stand a mushroom, cap up, on paper, cover it, and spores drop overnight, to make a spore-print. Most fungi are not poisonous, but a few are fatal.



**Puffball**  
*Lycoperdon depressum*  
 July-Nov. In grass  
 2-4cm broad  
 Inedible. Non-poisonous

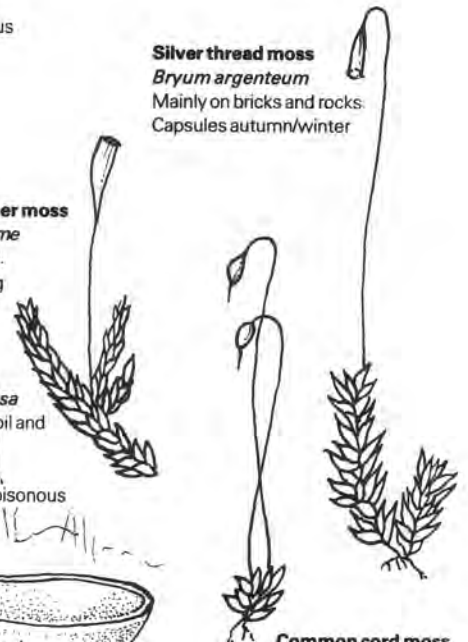
**Jew's Ear**  
*Auricularia auricula*  
 Jan-Dec, especially Oct-Nov.  
 On Elder  
 3-10cm broad  
 Edible



**Field Horsetail**  
*Equisetum arvense*  
 H. 20-80cm  
 Horsetails are a type of ancient flowerless plants, with stiff stems containing silicon.



**Cypress-leaved feather moss**  
*Hypnum cupressiforme*  
 On bark, rocks and soil.  
 Capsules winter/spring



**Silver thread moss**  
*Bryum argenteum*  
 Mainly on bricks and rocks.  
 Capsules autumn/winter

**Cup Fungus**  
*Peziza vesiculosa*  
 Aug-Apr. Rich soil and manure  
 2-5cm high  
 Inedible. Non-poisonous



Most mosses grow on bare ground, rocks, bricks and wood. Many kinds withstand drought and freshen up after rain. The spores are in capsules on long stems.

**Common cord moss**  
*Funaria hygrometrica*  
 Mainly on burnt ground  
 Capsules summer/autumn