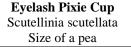




The visible part -- a mushroom -- is the fruit of a much larger organism that is underground, within a dead or dying tree or other organic material.







Bird's Nest Fungus Nidula candida Raindrops spread spores



Candlesnuff Fungus Xylaria hypoxylon Mini antlers on oak stumps



Umber-brown Puffball Lycoperdon umbrinum Squirts a cloud of spores



Coral Mushroom Ramaria stricta Branched fruiting body



Cracked Cap Bolete Boletus chrysenteron Tube-shaped pores