

## How to make informative photos?

Photographs of collected specimens are crucial for a confirmation of morphological identification. However, while photographing a mushroom for identification, it is not necessarily the most important to make the photo as beautiful as possible, but it is the most important to make it as informative as possible. In here you can read what to keep in mind while taking photos of mushroom specimens:

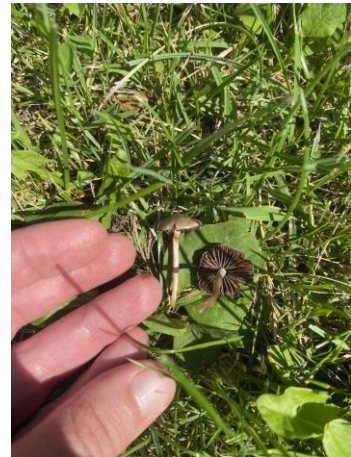
1. If possible, take more than one photo.
2. Photograph mushrooms where they grow. This will allow us to extract additional metadata about the surrounding environment.



3. If possible, try to make a photo of more than one fruiting body. Preferentially in different growing stages, from an emerging to a mature sporocarp.



4. Photograph the specimen from multiple angles. If it is a fruiting body with a cap, photograph the cap from above and from below so that the upper surface of the cap and the hymenophore with gills/pores/teeth is visible.



5. Try to photograph all characteristics of the specimen. Sometimes the part hidden in the substrate is also important. If it is allowed to collect that specimen, take photos of it also after you remove it from the substrate. Remember, to gently unearth the specimen, make sure to dig up the base of the stipe (stem) and the bulb/volva/root if present.



6. If some morphological characteristics are small (e.g. how gills are attached to the stem), you can make a zoomed in photo of only that part. Sometimes a photo done through a magnifying glass allows you to catch those really tiny details!
7. For several taxa there are species or genus specific characters that should be documented. For example, this could be the declaration of the stipe after cutting or color changes after pressing. In such a case good practice is to document them in photos too.

8. Additionally, it is recommended to take a photograph of the habitat in which the specimen was found. Some more, more detailed photos of bark and leaves of common trees in the habitat can also be uploaded.



**Read and watch more recommendations:**

- Fungal Diversity Survey: Photograph section <https://fundis.org/get-started/photograph>,
- Fungal Diversity Survey: Collect & Document section <https://fundis.org/sequence/collect-dry/collect-document>,
- [How to photograph a mushroom \(Sigrid Jakob\)](#),
- [An iNaturalist Introduction to Mushrooming](#)