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EDITORIAL

Wild mushrooms of Bonai Forest Division, Odisha

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Wild mushrooms are always ignored as a wealth of our forest. Mushrooms and our ecosystems are strongly intertwined. There are countless species of wild mushrooms in our forest. They also demonstrate a unique relationship with the associated plant species. The availability and diversity of wild mushrooms are known to have a direct or indirect impact on forest health. They are the major decomposers on the forest floor. They provide food for many insects and other faunal species. They also provide food, medicines, and livelihoods to the local communities (Figure 1). Keeping in mind the importance of wild mushrooms and bringing attention to their importance for forest, community, and ecology, an attempt has been made to document the wild mushrooms of Bonai Forest Division (BFD), Sundargarh, Odisha, India. A survey was made in 2021–2022, and about 60 species of wild mushrooms were enumerated. The most common enumerated wild mushrooms are *Amanita caesarea*, *Amanita egregia*, *Amanita pantherine*, *Astraeus hygrometricus*, *Boletus reticulatus*, *Cantharellus lateritius*, *Dacryopinax spathularia*, *Daldinia concentrica*, *Ganoderma applanatum*, *Geastrum fimbriatum*, *Leucocoprinus birnbaumii*, *Marasmius haematocephalus*, *Microporus xanthopus*, *Phallus indusiatus*, *Russula rosea*, *Termitomyces clypeatus* and *Xylaria filiformis*. During the survey, it was observed that *Geastrum fimbriatum* is used against skin infections by the Khadia tribe of the Sole Range of BFD (Figure 2). It was

noticed that *Astraeus hygrometricus* is collected by local communities for food and to sell in local markets. Team is thankful to the Field staffs and Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Bonai Forest Division, Odisha, India.



Figure 1: A tribal women selling the wild mushrooms



Figure 2: Discussion on medicinal and food values of wild mushrooms