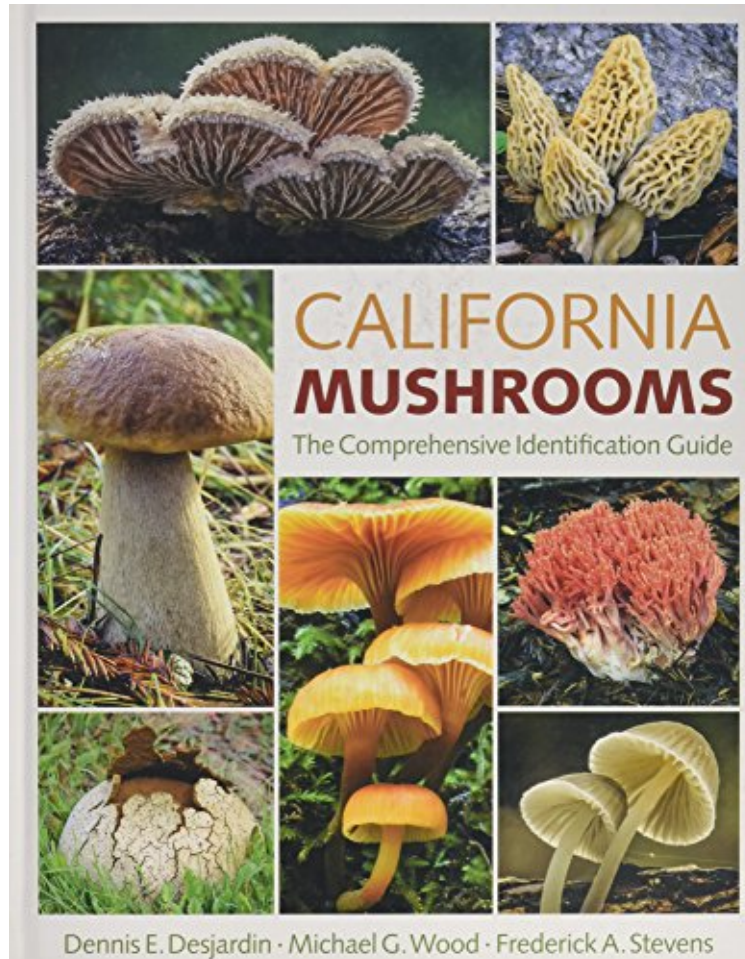


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## California Mushrooms: The Comprehensive Identification Guide

*Dennis E. Desjardin, Michael G. Wood, Frederick A. Stevens*  
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**Dennis E. Desjardin, Michael G. Wood, Frederick A. Stevens : California Mushrooms: The Comprehensive Identification Guide** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised California Mushrooms: The Comprehensive Identification Guide:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Finally, a new guide for the Western States.By S. MossCalifornia Mushrooms is the best field guide published in a decade. I say field guide loosely as it is much too heavy to haul around in the field. But don't be put off by that. Most mushroom identification happens after the hunt, at home in a quiet space. The introductory material is thorough, easy to understand, and leads one with confidence into the keys. The keys are logical and clear. The photograph which accompanys each described mushroom is true to life. This alone makes the book worth every penny. I have been a mushroom hunter for 34 years, and a member of the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz Governing board. Even with so much experience, positive identification can be elusive. While as previous reviewers have said, no one book can do it all, California Mushrooms comes very close. In the last

10 years, new field guides available in the U.S. have described species found largely in the eastern states, and very little new work was available specifically for the western states.<sup>4</sup> of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent. By Charles S. Fisher. For a California mycophile Professor Desjardin has laid a treasure in my lap. Now after three years of drought I need rain to put it to use. In Marin county last year I probably managed to find about 20 species of mushroom over the entire season while my buddy Bob Stewart up in Arcata approached 200. If I had a coffee table I would but California Mushrooms on it. Because, despite the seasonally-so-far lack of shrooms, I pick it up and read through one section after another. I wonder whether the older standard reference book we all know will fade. (I lobby its author to bring it up to date.) Of course our professor author needs not resort to humor as his predecessor did, but I would have like a little more help with synonyms. That is what us old guys, who learned taxonomy a while ago, now use as an excuse to use older claudistics which can be applied in the field to identify species. This is not a problem in this book. But more synonyms by way of common names and confused scientific names would have been useful. The pictures in the book are excellent. It doesn't quite match the weight of Lichens of North America, but maybe equals Jespersons flora for which people had handy cloth carrying cases. I wonder if the publisher will reduce it too a handbook to carry in the field. This book is a must for shroomers in California. Charlie Fisher, author of Meditation in the Wild and Dismantling Discontent. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I found the book so much fun that I spent 3 hours with it. By alternative MDI bought this after extensive review. I know plants, but not much about mushrooms. I found the book so much fun that I spent 3 hours with it, out of the box. I was out gardening this spring and ran into what I thought were morels. I ran inside and was able to positively identify my find. I then found 2 more morel clusters around the property. I can't say what a pro would want, and I could see myself wanting something more detailed in the future. But for a rank beginner, who loves to grow organically, this has been a satisfying book. Like I said, I scanned it cover to cover on purchase. It was a lot of fun.

Winner of the CBHL Award of Excellence California is one of the most ecologically rich and diverse regions of North America, and home to hundreds of species of mushrooms. In California Mushrooms, mycologist experts Dennis Desjardin, Michael Wood, and Fred Stevens provide over 1100 species profiles, including comprehensive descriptions and spectacular photographs. Each profile includes information on macro- and micromorphology, habitat, edibility, and comparisons with closely related species and potential look-alikes. Although the focus of the book is on mushrooms of California, over 90% of the species treated occur elsewhere, making the book useful throughout western North America. This complete reference covers everything necessary for the mushroom hunter to accurately identify over 650 species.

An excellent addition to the mushroom literature for the West Coast and should be in the library of all who would attempt to identify the mushrooms of California or surrounding areas. The Mycophile This book is useful well beyond discussing California mushrooms. You get a good comprehensive overview of the world of mycology, with all the types of fungi broken into their categories and with keys to help you identify the mushroom in hand. American Survival Guide Magazine